

(c) to allot to each teacher or other member of the staff certain duties, to supervise the discharge of these duties, and to report to the Manager every case in which a teacher or other member of the staff fails to discharge his duty regularly, punctually and efficiently;

(d) to see that the registers and records of the school are maintained in accordance with departmental regulations and that returns due to the department are prepared accurately and submitted promptly;

(e) to maintain efficient discipline in the school in accordance with the school rules and with departmental regulations;

(f) to see that the furniture, equipment, apparatus and teaching appliances are kept in good order, and to report to the Manager any deficiencies in the same ;

(g) to see that the building and premises are kept in a clean and tidy condition and that the sanitary state of the school and compound is satisfactory;

(h) to recommend suitable and properly qualified persons to the Manager for appointment to any vacancy on the staff;

(i) to see that the fees are collected in accordance with prescribed rules; and

(j) generally, to carry out all regulations prescribed by the Department, to report to the Manager any case in which these regulations are not being strictly obeyed, and in other matters not herein specified to act under the orders of the Manager.

II. The Headmaster shall have power—

(a) to admit pupils in accordance with departmental regulations;

(b) to punish, discharge and dismiss pupils in accordance with departmental regulations and the rules of the school ;

(c) to recommend to the Manager to punish by fine, not exceeding two days' pay, any member of the staff, for negligence or disobedience of orders;

(d) to appoint and dismiss any servant or menial employed in the school;

(e) to decide the annual promotion of pupils; and

(f) to select pupils who may be admitted at favourable fee rates in accordance with such general rules as may be prescribed by the Manager.

Office of the Director of
Public Instruction,
Trivandrum, 16th June 1914.

A. W. BISHOP,
Director of Public Instruction.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

DEMAND I—LAND REVENUE.

PRESIDENT: We will now proceed with the demands for grants.

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 8.62 lakhs under Demand I—Land Revenue.

Motion 1

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I rise to make the following motion:—

1. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 500.

For this item, the allotment was Rs. 2,855 in 1098. Now, let us look at the kind of touring work of the Land Revenue Commissioner in the year 1098. Page 24 of the *Administration Report* says:—

"Paragraph 14. The Income Tax Commissioner inspected the offices of 11 Tahsildar Collectors, 5 Division Assistant Collectors and 2 Dewan Peishkar Collectors against 21, 5 and 4 respectively in the previous year."

This clearly shows that the Commissioner is inclined to shirk touring work. Again, the annual report of the Department shows that he is not so vigilant as he ought to be (page 9, paragraph 15, 'Tours').

"Mr. K. Anantanarayana Aiyar, Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner, was in camp for 65 days and I was in camp for 39 days. But Mr. K. Anantanarayana Aiyar was in charge of office till the 1st of Makaram 1098."

Mr. Robinson was put in his place on 2nd Makaram and he was holding office for seven months whereas his predecessor in office was in service for five months. There can be seen a vast difference in the matter of touring.

The Commissioner does not care also to see how the Peishkars and the Commissioner of Devicolam, who are under him, do their touring work. There also his work is very poor. The annual report says:—

"The average number of days the Dewan Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolam, were in camp during the year was 150 days against 181 days in 1097."

These statistics show clearly that the touring and inspection work are not satisfactory. I do not know whether he has visited many taluks. My taluk, namely, the Chirayinkil taluk, is under him.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask the member whether inspection consists in the number of days spent in camp or in the thoroughness of going into the work?

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I am only submitting my opinions based on the annual report.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I take it that the member wants thoroughness of inspection? I take it that the inspection is to be judged not by the number of days on tour, but by the actual inspection into the details of work.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I do not catch him.

PRESIDENT: Will you please repeat the question, Mr. Robinson?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): My question is whether the member judges the adequacy of the inspection from the number of days on tour or from the actual work done.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, is the question in order? Is it a question for information?

PRESIDENT: It is in order. The member says that the touring was unsatisfactory, and one reason he gives for his opinion is the small number of days the Commissioner was on tour. Mr. Robinson's question is whether the satisfactoriness or the unsatisfactoriness of an officer's touring is to be judged by the number of days on which he travelled. It is quite a legitimate question.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): My question is this. When a non-official member is in charge of a legislative measure, the member in charge may be questioned under the Legislative Council Rules. Except when it is a request for information no other question is permissible at other times under the rules. This appears not to be a request for information. Therefore, my difficulty is whether an elicitation of opinion is covered by the practice of the House and whether this is not out of order.

PRESIDENT: I do not think so. It is a request for information as to the interpretation the member puts upon his own expression.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): It appears not to be covered by any rules.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid it is. Please go on, Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I do not know whether he knows the fact that as many as nine *pakuthies* in my taluk are left without any L. R. M. work. The Commissioner nevertheless has given orders to find out and survey the *poramboke* lands from these *pakuthies*. The Commissioner seems to be blind to the matter even though volumes of questions have been asked in this House and a number of evasive answers have been received from the Chief Secretary.

After all, Sir, the Commissioner travels by motor, travelling great distances in one stretch. For these reasons, I move for the reduction of Rs. 500 under travelling allowance.

PRESIDENT: Is that motion supported?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I support it. I have been a Government officer myself and I am a great believer in inspection work. Subordinates are kept in check and everything kept in order. And if they are not in order inspection by superior officers has the effect of putting things right. It saves a lot of unnecessary

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

correspondence and red-tape. If the officer goes to the spot he can give personal orders on many things. I did not read the portion of the report referred to by my friend; but I am exceedingly surprised to see that an energetic, hard-working and competent officer like the present Revenue Commissioner should have failed in his duty in regard to this matter of circuit work. I expected very much better from him (*laughter*), especially just now, when things are in a topsy-turvy condition, when the Assistant Tahsildars' fate is hanging in the balance. There was not a single session of this House during which we did not severely criticise the revenue administration of the State.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I draw the member's attention to the fact that the report referred to by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai is the report for the year 1098 and not for 1099?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Hoogewerf is referring to 1098 also.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I am referring to the seven months that Mr. Robinson was in charge of the Department in 1098. I am simply surprised that, with the motor-car and so many other facilities for travelling, there should have been so much laxity in inspection work. I think I have said enough to stress the great necessity of better inspection work being done by the Revenue Commissioner.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഓൺഡ് റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണറുടെ സഞ്ചാരപ്പടി കുറയ്ക്കുന്നത് അത്ര ശരിയായിരിക്കയില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. സഞ്ചാരംകൊണ്ടു വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അധികപ്രയോജനം വരുത്തുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ ഒരാളാണ് അദ്ദേഹമെന്ന് ഇതുവരെയുള്ള അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ യാത്രകളിൽനിന്നു വെളിവാവിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഓരോ താലൂക്കിലും അദ്ദേഹം വന്നാൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങൾക്കു നിവൃത്തി ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടവിധത്തിൽ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. കുറെകൂടി പ്രയോജനം മേലും ഉണ്ടാകണമെങ്കിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനാവശ്യമുള്ള സഞ്ചാരപ്പടി അനുവദിക്കത്തന്നെവേണം. ചിലതാലൂക്കുകളിലെല്ലാം അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു വന്നെത്തുവാനും അഴിമതികളെ തെക്കുവാനും സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ലായിരിക്കാം. അതുകൊണ്ടായാരിക്കാം എന്റെ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതൻ കമ്മീഷണറുടെ ഭാവലിങ്ങ് അലവൻസ് കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞത്. എന്നാൽ എന്റെ അനുഭവത്തിൽനിന്ന് അദ്ദേഹം വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ പലസ്ഥലത്തും സഞ്ചരിച്ചു പല നന്മകളും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വരുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അഴിമതികളിൽ നിന്നു ജനങ്ങളെ രക്ഷിക്കാൻ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സർക്കിട്ട് ആവശ്യമാണ്. എന്നാൽ ചില അല്പജ്ഞന്മാരുടെ സർക്കിട്ടുകൊണ്ടു വിപരീതഫലമാണ്

വരുന്നതെന്നും പറയാതിരിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഇദ്ദേഹം ആ കൂട്ടത്തിലല്ല. ഇദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സർക്കിട്ടുകൊണ്ട് കൂടുതൽ ഗുണമുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് അലവൻസ് കറയ്ക്കുതെന്നു ഞാൻ വീണ്ടും പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eramel cum Vilavankod*): ഞാൻ മിസ്റ്റർ കഞ്ഞിത്തൊമ്മന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടു യോജിക്കുന്നു. ലാൻഡ് റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ മിസ്റ്റർ റാബിൻസൺ ആദ്യക്ഷനായി ഹിരന്നതിനു മുമ്പുള്ള സ്ഥിതികൾക്കും ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതികൾക്കും വളരെ വ്യത്യാസമുണ്ട്. അദ്ദേഹം മോട്ടാറിൽ സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് സഞ്ചാരപ്പടി കറയ്ക്കണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ സ്റ്റേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ കഞ്ഞിത്തൊമ്മനുമായുള്ള അഭിപ്രായം. അദ്ദേഹം ഇരയിടത്തന്നെ തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ സർക്കിട്ടുവന്നിരുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു മോട്ടാറുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് ചിലദിവസം ഒന്നരണ്ടും സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ പരിശോധനകൾകഴിച്ചു മടങ്ങിപ്പോകുന്നു. മുൻപിലത്തേയും ഇന്നത്തേയും സ്ഥിതികൾക്കു വേറെഭെവ്യത്യാസം കാണുന്നതു കിഴ്നീൽബന്ധികളുടെയിടയിലുള്ള അഴിമതികൾക്കു വളരെ കറവുള്ളതാണ്. അതിനു കാരണം പലതുമുണ്ട്. ഈ പരാതിക്കാർ എല്ലാ അവസരങ്ങളിലും നേരിട്ടുപേരുവച്ചാൽ ജീകൊട്ടക്കുന്നതു അപൂർവ്വമാണ്. പലപ്പോഴും വാസ്തവമായ സംഗതികൾക്കു കള്ളപ്പേരുവച്ചോ പേരുവയ്ക്കാതെയോ ആണ് ഹർജികൾ അയക്കുന്നത്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഹർജികൾ അദ്ദേഹം ചവറുകുട്ടിയിൽ തള്ളുകയോ വലിച്ചുകീറിക്കളയുകയോ അല്ല ചെയ്യുന്നത്. അതിൽവല്ലകാര്യവും ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഉടനേതന്നെ അന്വേഷണം നടത്തി ന്യായമായി തീരുമാനിക്കുന്നു. അതിലേക്ക് അടുത്ത കാലത്തുതന്നെ ഒരു ഓഴ്ചാത്തം എനിക്ക് അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. അദ്ദേഹം കല്ലുളംതാലൂക്കിൽ വന്നപ്പോൾ ഒന്നരണ്ടു ഹർജികൾ കട്ടുകയും അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച ഭംഗിയായി അന്വേഷണം നടത്തി തീരുമാനിക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്തത്. കൃത്യ നിഷ്കൃഷ്ടാഭിജ്ഞാലിയായ ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്റെ സഞ്ചാരപ്പടി കറയ്ക്കുകയോ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു മനോവേദന വരുത്തത്തക്കവണ്ണം പറയുകയോ ചെയ്യുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹം എടുത്തുപൂർവ്വമായി വേല ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പടിപ്പണം കറയ്ക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നാണ് എനിക്ക് അഭിപ്രായമുള്ളത്.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I oppose the motion. It is rather unfortunate that, of all officers, the Revenue Commissioner should have been chosen for criticism in this respect. I am sure the public have the greatest confidence in the present Revenue Commissioner and, so far as I have been able to see, there had absolutely been no complaint either in the matter of inspection

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

or in the conduct of work with respect to the Revenue Department. There is absolutely nothing to say against the Revenue Commissioner in the matter of inspection work or in the matter of supervision, with regard to the revenue establishment. I therefore oppose the motion.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Sir, I also oppose the motion. I never thought of speaking on this particular motion for fear that most of our motions would lapse, if all of us make it a point to speak on occasions like this. But the fact that an officer like the present Land Revenue Commissioner has been attacked, especially by one of the experienced pensioned Government officers like Mr. Hoogewerf, cannot be allowed to go without notice.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not a fact that, during the seven months in 1098 the present Land Revenue Commissioner was in charge of the Department, he was on tour only on 35 days? My remarks referred only to that fact. I have great respect for Mr. Robinson as an officer. I do not want to reduce one pie from his T. A. On the other hand, I would certainly give him more. (*Laughter*).

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I am of the opinion that the remarks made against him are not fair and that he does not deserve them. I would also say in this connection that, so far as that officer's T. A. is concerned, the amount sanctioned is not enough. I would also point out that, if he had been given the use of a motor-boat also, he would have been able to visit taluks like Shertallai and other places. So I oppose the motion.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I do not think much of reply is necessary from me. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai remarked about the number of days I was on circuit in the year 1098. I took charge of the Department at the end of the year and I had a large amount of work in connection with income tax and revenue dues. Since the time of Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar, many income tax cases had been filed and all these were handed over to me when I took charge of the Department. I had a number of cases to dispose of and every day I had to hear five, six and even ten or twelve cases. It was this sort of work that prevented me from touring as much as I wished to do. There were appeals on almost every income tax assessment that was made. The assessments had to be postponed till the appeals were disposed of. In this manner there were a number of difficulties which did not enable me to do more touring work. The member himself has brought forward the motion only to point out that the touring work was insufficient. That is the more reason why more T. A. must be granted to me. It is very hard to a Government officer now-a-days to please everybody. Some members advocate the cutting down of the travelling allowance. Other members advocate more touring. If the officer is to do more touring, he must necessarily spend more. In fact it reminds me of the story of the poor Brahmin. With your permission, I would relate the story.

PRESIDENT: You have also to note the time-limit.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I will reserve it for another occasion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I do not think it is the intention of Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai or myself—

PRESIDENT: You cannot explain for Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai. You may explain for yourself. (*Laughter*.)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): We simply mentioned this to draw the attention of the Council, Mr. Robinson, and the Government to the paucity of the number of days on which the Land Revenue Commissioner was on tour, and nothing more than that.

PRESIDENT: You have already explained that.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The amount sanctioned for T. A. in 1099 has already been spent and it is really found insufficient. I had to travel about in connection with H.E. the Governor's visit and that T. A. had to be met out of the funds allotted for expenses in connection with the visit. Otherwise, I would not have been able to do all the inspection work. This year, the T. A. has already been spent and it is with great difficulty that we have been able to manage. I think we must be able to get the amount which we are really entitled to. The T. A. allotted is not only for myself. It is for the establishment also. It is really very difficult to manage with the allotment sanctioned. I applied for Rs. 1,000 more and Government cut it down by Rs. 1,000.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Did any T. A. allowed to the Land Revenue Commissioner last year lapse?

PRESIDENT: You mean 1098?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not got the figures ready. This year everything has been spent and more had to be spent on account of the Governor's tour.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I would also oppose the motion and in the light of the observations of Mr. Robinson, I hope Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai will withdraw his motion.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 2.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunhatnad*): I beg to move the following motion :—

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

2. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,740 for Nottams by Rs. 1,020.*

Sir, if I understand it rightly, the office of *Nottams* has been instituted at a time when our *chackram* coin was silver and when there was any amount of false coins in circulation. Once that coin was abolished and the necessity for examining and detecting the false coins ceased, the office for the same should have ceased with it automatically. But we see the office surviving the *kalla chackram* so many years. So I think it is high time to do away with this antiquarian office.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkkū*) : I second the motion.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Sir, I beg to oppose the motion. In all, there are five *Nottams* on Rs. 17 each per mensem. They are distributed as follows:—

Divisional Treasury	Trivandrum	3
Divisional Treasury	Quilon	1
Divisional Treasury	Kottayam	1

These *Nottams* are entertained in treasuries where there are very heavy transactions. Their duty is to accept the money presented at the treasuries as per chalans, remittance, etc., and to see whether the coins, notes, etc., received are genuine or spurious. It requires a good deal of experience. Anybody who has watched these *Nottams* at work would be able to find and appreciate how well these *Nottams* are able to detect false coins. It is really wonderful. The treasurer who has got other multifarious duties connected with the treasury will not have sufficient time to attend to this item of work also in addition to his own. It is with a view to give some relief to the treasurers in the above-mentioned big treasuries and also to vouchsafe the genuineness of the coins and notes lodged in the treasuries that Government have sanctioned the entertainment of these *Nottams*. It is only in big treasuries that we have these *Nottams*. Of course in the minor treasuries the work is being done by the treasurers. It is highly necessary in the interests of the tax-payer and the public that these *Nottams* are retained in service in the big treasuries. In fact we have had already a lot of false notes and coins thrown on the country and we have to safeguard the Government—which means the tax-payer—and the public against receiving false coins. The *Nottams* have had long experience and can throw out false coins immediately, whereas an inexperienced man might pass them. The transactions in these treasuries are very heavy and, as it is, the treasurers have to be helped by these *Nottams* to count and check the coins, especially when large remittances are received. Even at present they are often helped by peons and clerks. If we do not entertain these *Nottams*, it will seriously interfere with the work of the treasuries and also render easy the remittance of false coins in the Government treasuries. I therefore oppose the motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I also beg to support the motion. As has been pointed out by the Reverend Father, the institution of *Nottams* is practically of a bye-gone age when one *chackram* pieces were in circulation. Now many of the treasuries have to deal in the main with paper currency. At any rate, to a considerable extent, the allotment on behalf of *Nottams* is capable of reduction. Viewing the question in that light, I would request Mr. Robinson to reconsider the question and suggest, if possible, a compromise, accepting a reduction in the allotment for *Nottams*. It is not the idea of this House to do away with *Nottams* in their entirety. Some of them may survive where they are absolutely necessary. I only maintain that the subject, in view of the existing practice, is capable of consideration and reduction. In that light, I beg to support the motion of Rev. Fr. Vettik-kapalli.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I beg to oppose that motion. The statement by the Reverend Father that these *Nottams* are to shroff only silver *chackram* pieces is not correct.

PRESIDENT: A little louder, please.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I say that the Reverend Father's statement that the *Nottams* are to shroff only the silver *chackram* pieces is not correct. Certainly there were a large number of counterfeit silver *chackram* pieces. These *Nottams* are intended to shroff all silver coins including the rupee and—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): May I know whether the *gollas* also belong to the same species?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No; they are peons who are engaged in carrying coins. The *Nottams* are shroffs.

All the silver coins that are remitted in the treasuries have to be checked and examined and for this purpose these *Nottams* are absolutely necessary, especially in the bigger treasuries. In the smaller treasuries we manage with the treasurers because the transactions are few. In major treasuries we cannot manage without *Nottams*. About two years ago we did away with one or two of them. Now we have only three *Nottams* in the Trivandrum Treasury. Without them we cannot manage at all.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): How many *Nottams* are there in the State?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is shown in the budget; there are five in the Divisional Treasuries.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): What is their average pay?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There is no average. The pay is fixed. It is Rs. 17.

As I said, we have *Nottams* only in the bigger treasuries. The treasurers there are not able to manage even their own work, particularly in the Divisional Treasuries of Trivandrum, Quilon and Kottayam.

[Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.]

Without the assistance of these *Nottams* you cannot guarantee the purity of the coins remitted in the treasuries. That is the very essential part of the work of all treasuries and without the assistance of the *Nottams* it is impossible to secure the purity of the coins.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): I beg to support the motion and in doing so I should like to add a word about the origin of the word "*Nottam*." I should think that the word *Nottam* itself came into existence on account of the fact that certain planks used in the treasuries which contain holes for silver *chackrams*, *fanams* and so on, had to be examined after being filled by the coins. There are hundred-*janam* planks, two hundred-*fanam* planks and so on. After spreading the coins on the planks the shroff has to examine whether the plank has been filled correctly and for this purpose he has to carefully look at the planks. It is that looking at the planks that is called *Nottam*.

PRESIDENT: Does it exclude the examination of the genuineness of the coins?

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): The shroff has to examine whether the silver *chackram* pieces have been spread on the planks properly.

PRESIDENT: False coins also can get into these holes.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Men of experience can, by a glance, pick out the false coins, or *chempu chackrams* as they were called. So I should think that the word *Nottam* refers to the looking at the planks and that therefore the *Nottams* also must cease along with these planks.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I ask whether the member would dispense with the shroffing of coins?

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Certainly not.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Then who is to do it?

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Of course, the treasurer must do it. The treasurer who is practically responsible for the treasury must do this also. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Sir, I have been a Divisional Treasury Officer myself and I can speak with some experience on this matter. Rev. Fr. Vettikkapalli seems to be under the idea that only silver *chackrams* need be shroffed. That is not a fact. There were and there are other coins that have to be shroffed. The whole silver rupee, the half rupee, the quarter rupee, the one-eighth rupee and the *fanam* and several copper coins of various sorts are all being remitted into the treasuries and when the remittance is received in the treasury all these coins have to be shroffed. Let us suppose, for example, that about a lakh and fifty thousand rupees worth of coins are

remitted in a particular treasury. It is sure to be made up of all sorts of coins. All these coins have to be shroffed. Now, as for the time required to shroff these coins, I can give the details. In the case of the whole British rupee, one *Nottam* can shroff correctly only Rs. 5,000 in a day. So, if you get a remittance of a lakh and fifty thousand rupees, it will generally take at least ten or twelve days for three *Nottams*, and it is not advisable to keep remittances unshroffed for any number of days. It ought to be closed in ten or fifteen days. It must be finished by that time. So the three *Nottams* allotted for the Trivandrum Divisional Treasury are just sufficient.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Are there *Nottams* along with shroffs?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): No, the *Nottams* are the shroffs. There are no other shroffs. The *gollas* are simply engaged to carry treasure from one part of the treasury to another, say, from the shroff's room to the Treasury Officer's room. As for the Treasury Officer, he has absolutely no time even for doing his own work.

PRESIDENT: The *gollas* are menials.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Even the copper coins have to be shroffed, because there are counterfeit copper coins also. There are very many copper blanks, as they are called, and there are also false coins and coins of other countries, so that even copper coins require shroffing. I therefore say that it is absolutely necessary to retain all the *Nottams* now in existence, because the reduction of even one of them would result in dislocation of the whole work.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): After the clear explanation from Mr. Robinson, Mr. George and our expert Mr. Lakshmana Pillai, I think the mover will withdraw his motion. I was also under the impression that *Nottams* were not necessary. But after hearing the explanation of the previous speakers I would ask Fr. Vettikkapalli to withdraw his motion.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): On the assurance from the Land Revenue Commissioner that these *Nottams* have still ample work to do, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 3.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I move the following:

3. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 53,424 under establishment to Division Cutcherries by Rs. 4,800.

PRESIDENT: What does the proposed reduction represent?

[President.]

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): This is intended to discuss the question as to whether the Division Assistant at Peermade should continue or not.

PRESIDENT: But you are proposing the cut of that officer's salary instead of a cut in the establishment charges.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Out of the establishment charges under Division Cutcherries, I move for a reduction of Rs. 4,800. The figure was put in with a view to indicate to the Government my object in making the motion. A similar motion was discussed during the last budget and the House discussed the principle as to whether in the Devicolum Division there should be both a Commissioner and a Division Assistant at Peermade. In discussing that question, after a full and elaborate debate, the House carried the motion for the abolition of the place of a Division Assistant at Peermade by an overwhelming majority of 26 against 18. It is very rarely that in this House the non-official members succeed in getting motions carried with such an overwhelming majority, especially when the Government propose to put up a strong fight. It is very unfortunate that, even after such a motion was carried with such a clear majority, no steps appear to have been taken by Government in carrying out the principle that has already been adopted by this House. The object of my motion is to elicit from Government some information as to whether they have taken any steps towards that direction, and, if not, why they have chosen not to take any action in the matter. Sufficient reasons have been shown last time as to why the place should be abolished. We are now at a loss to know why the motion has not been practically carried out. I should therefore like very much that this House should be informed as to the circumstances under which Government have chosen to continue the place in spite of the declared intention, on the part of the House to have it abolished.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know from Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai whether the matter was not discussed in the Finance Committee?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The question was raised in the Finance Committee by the non-official members. It is a non-votable item. In the Finance Committee we can only express our opinion which will be duly recorded. Nothing more can be done. Whatever could be done has been done by the Finance Committee.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I will reserve my remarks and make them after hearing the Government member.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The motion has not been seconded.

PRESIDENT: The rules do not require the seconding of these motions.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): First of all I may point out that this motion deals entirely with the Peermade Division Assistant's pay which is a non-votable item.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Louder, please.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The motion was really admitted by inadvertence. It is exactly the pay of the Division Assistant at Peermade. It is strictly a non-votable item. However, I will offer a few remarks and oppose the proposition.

The trend of the discussion shows that the object of the member is not merely to curtail or disallow the expenditure under office staff or contingencies, but also to have the post of the Division Assistant at Peermade abolished. Of course, that is a non-votable item. I would say that it is premature even to discuss the policy of the question, as the present Assistant was obtained from British service under a special covenant and his term of service has not expired. Government have taken him on for three years and it is probably not possible, and at any rate, not advisable nor expedient to cancel the existing agreement.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Devicolum cum Peermade*): When was the present incumbent appointed?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not got that information. It will be ascertainable from the *Civil List* or probably the *Directory* of officers.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade cum Devicolum*): Was it after the passing of this motion in the last year's budget?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I am not in the confidence of Government. I do not know when the correspondence began and when the covenant was agreed upon.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Cannot he be put in some other department like the Police?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): But why? (*Laughter*.) The matter has been gone into very thoroughly last year during the budget discussion by many of the members of this House and I do not think it necessary to waste the time of the House in repeating what I said last year.

The Assistant at Peermade who is also a First Class Magistrate has to attend to different items of work connected with his office just like any other Division Assistant. He has to do a considerable amount of income tax work. There are about 90 assesses on his file and the income accruing from his assessment is about Rs. 17,000. It will not be in the interests of the public to have these items of work done by an officer stationed at Kottayam or any other place away from Peermade. I trust that the House will concede that the

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

Peermade Hills are not the uninhabited hilly tract which they were before. They now constitute a fertile tract studded with tea and rubber estates and are now progressing as a seat of industrial activities. It is the duty of Government to maintain this progress in all respects. The value of money spent on these hills, in opening them up, by the owners of estates, both European and Indian, is very great and Government owe a duty to them to see to their welfare. The town of Peermade is about fifty miles away from Kottayam and the suburbs lie many miles farther. It is most inaccessible from Kottayam. It is impossible to believe that a Division Assistant and First Class Magistrate not stationed at Peermade will be able to exercise any effective supervision over the place or that the Division Peishkar, Kottayam, amidst the work which he has to do in other taluks that lie far away from his headquarters, such as Shertallai, Parur, Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha, will be able to spare the time which the Commissioner, Devicolum, is at present able to do to stop at Peermade. To leave the Tahsildar alone at Peermade without a superior officer will not, I think, be a desirable step.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade cum Devicolum*): May I know from Mr. Robinson whether Peermade is closer to Devicolum than Kottayam?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): No. As the member knows it is very inaccessible.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade cum Devicolum*): Does not the Devicolum Commissioner travel to Peermade *via* Kottayam?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): It is only possible to reach Peermade from Devicolum *via* Kottayam.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know from Mr. Robinson, how many hours of run is required to reach Peermade from Kottayam by motor?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Three hours' run. The Division Assistant is primarily an executive officer expected to be constantly on circuit to do the several items of work allotted to him and he will not be available in times of need. The area of the taluk excluding the five *pakuthies* transferred to Changanachery or Minachil is 2,58,816 acres as per revenue accounts and the *ayacut* revenue alone is Rs. 1,05,804.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Will Mr. Robinson be pleased to state what portion of this revenue is from tea?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not got the information. Mr. Krishna Aiyar perhaps has come prepared and so he must have more information than I.

The Tahsildar has thus heavy circuit work to do and has to exert his utmost to collect the revenue. Last year, the number of demand notices issued by the Tahsildar was 2,851 involving Rs. 55,843, and a lot of work they have to do on the other side of the hills which consists in getting notices served, the collection of tax and so on. It is only by having an Assistant who will be available at headquarters in times of emergency that we can possibly manage. In view of the fact that the estates are worked mostly with the coolies and depressed classes of Travancore, Government will be failing in their duty to the estate owners if they withdraw the Assistant who is the only chief officer able to control the subordinate staff, revenue, magisterial or police, when necessity arises.

To me it appears that if it is true that the establishment of Government institutions follows generally the advancement of a place, it is equally true that the opening of important public institutions is a necessary element for the advancement of a place. Just when a place is advancing in point of civilization as Peermade, if you withdraw the most important of the Government institutions existing there, you will see that the most co-ordinating factor of the place will disappear and the place itself will go down in importance. Peermade is rising into importance in every way and is materially contributing to swell the State treasury, by way of tax, export duties, income tax, etc. It was a malarious tract before, but is now a sanitarium. If population or land revenue is the only criterion by which Government are to judge the importance of a place, I think that Government would not have been justified in opening any of the institutions such as a Hospital Assistant's office, taluk office, etc., which exist at Peermade at present and that Peermade would not have been what it is at present, a seat of civilization on the hills.

The advantages of having a superior officer of status at any place cannot be estimated by mere statistics. The feeling of safety which the presence of such an officer engenders in the public mind is, I think, incalculable. During last year's budget debate the House has already brought to the Government's notice that they think that the Division Assistant at Peermade is not necessary. This fact has already been noted. To cut all the establishment cost now would be to throw all that staff unjustly out of employment. This would be most unfair and there is no object in it as the former recommendation of the House has already been noted. I appeal to your sense of justice towards the poor staff up there. Are you going to make them starve? It is not possible to dispense with the Division Assistant's services in the middle of his contract or agreement. Further, I may inform the House that this motion was admitted by inadvertence. The proposed cut is exactly the pay of the officer and it is strictly a non-votable item. I would therefore kindly request the member to withdraw the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Sir, I beg to second the motion of Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Louder, please,

[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): This motion was already passed last year, as pointed out by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai. The matter has come up again for discussion and possibly it may have to be voted upon this year also. It seems to me, therefore, that we have to go over the whole ground and consider the arguments advanced then and now. The Peermade taluk as now constituted is different from the Peermade taluk sometime before when there were eleven *pakuthies*. At present there are only five *pakuthies*, i. e., Peruvantanam, Peermade, Periar, Vandanmettu and Mlappara. Manimala, Poopara, Vanjipuzha, Poonjar, Kanjirapalli South and Kanjirapalli North have been taken away from the jurisdiction of the Peermade taluk. Now we have only—

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask the Member why these *pakuthies* were taken away from the Peermade taluk by the Government?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): As to why those *pakuthies* were taken away, I may tell him that it may be because Government thought it was good. As regards the policy that actuated the Government, I am not in a position to say. Possibly, Mr. Robinson may be in the confidence of the Government and so he may be in a position to enlighten us as to what his recommendations were and the reasons that induced the Government for the transfer of these *pakuthies*.

However, I am submitting that there are only five *pakuthies* in the Peermade taluk. Out of the five *pakuthies* Peruvantanam belongs to the Vanjipuzha *edavakai* and we have no revenue jurisdiction over that *pakuthi*. Therefore it may be omitted from consideration.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): What about the income tax work in the Peruvantanam *pakuthi*?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I refer to the ordinary revenue and magisterial work. The income tax officers have jurisdiction over the *pakuthi* and I shall discuss the question presently.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I think—

PRESIDENT: You may only put a question and not give an opinion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Coming to the four *pakuthies* left, Mlappara is mostly reserve land. There may be a few hundred acres of cardamom cultivation. The rest of the land is reserve. So we may eliminate that *pakuthi*.

PRESIDENT: Why eliminate?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I eliminate it because the *pakuthi* is mostly reserved forest, and a

small portion alone being cultivated, there is very little work to be done and very little revenue to be secured. There are few people who inhabit this reserve over whom the Magistrates can exercise jurisdiction.

As regards the Vandanmettu *pakuthi*, it is composed mostly of cardamom estates and the number of owners are few and they live mostly on the other side of the ghauts at Kumbam and other places. It is not inhabited all through the year and it is only at seasons of harvest that these owners come in.

Coming to Peermade and Periyar *pakuthies*, they are mainly composed of tea estates and the assessment is paid direct into the taluk cutcherry. No *proverticar* even is necessary for the purpose. There is only a small percentage of land registered under the *Pandrapattam* Rules, and this, in spite of the revenue jurisdiction over the four *pakuthies*, does not give enough of work for a Division Assistant or even a Tahsildar.

As regards accessibility to Peermade, Mr. Robinson himself has been good enough to admit that it is more accessible from Kottayam than from Devicolam. It is only three hours' drive from Kottayam by motor. A motor service has been in existence for the past several years from Kottayam to Mundakayam, Mundakayam to Periyar and from Periyar to Kumbam—the latter a bi-weekly service—so that any man, whether he be a Division Assistant or a ryot, can at any time go from Kottayam to Peermade.

Then, coming to income tax work, I may say that it is only a matter of Rs. 17,000. Mr. Robinson has not told us how much of this is derived from owners of tea estates. They keep correct accounts and their statements may be relied upon without further evidence. So there is absolutely no work to do for the income tax officers except to call for returns, to accept the returns and pass orders. That may be done whether the office is located at Peermade or Kottayam.

As to magisterial work in the taluk, I beg to state that there is very little to do and I regret to have to remark that the European Magistrates at Peermade have not been found to be much of a success. So, that reason cannot be advanced for the retention of the Division Assistant's place at Peermade.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I know from Mr. Krishna Aiyar what his grounds are?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): If Mr. Robinson wants me to state, I shall. However I would rather not. If he will ask me once again this particular question I am prepared to assert that very few European Magistrates at Peermade have been in a position to administer criminal law satisfactorily.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Do you mean to include Mr. Robinson also?

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I am not going to mention names. I know them for the past several years. I would not have given this answer but for the present request.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Have all these appeals been accepted by the High Court?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): It is not a matter of evidence from record. It is a matter of common knowledge with every vakil who has appeared there.

The argument that Mr. Robinson had to advance was that the present incumbent—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is there any order that persons appointed as Assistant Commissioner, Devicolum, should pass an examination in law?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): They are expected to pass special examinations.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Krishna Aiyar, you have exceeded your time very much.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Though many arguments have been advanced by Mr. Robinson, I do not see that he has been able to convince us of the necessity for the retention and continuance of the First Class Magistrate at Peermade.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): എന്റെ മാനുസ്ക്രിപ്റ്റിൽ മിസ്റ്റർ കൃഷ്ണയ്യർ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിന് പുറമെ എനിക്ക് രണ്ടുവാക്കുകൾ മാത്രമേ പറയേണ്ടതായുള്ളൂ. ഡിവിഷൻ പേജ്ക്കാരന്മാരുടെ ജോലികൾ സീമാതീതമാ വിവർദ്ധിച്ചുവന്നപ്പോൾ അവരെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിന് ഡിവിഷൻ അസിസ്റ്റൻറന്മാരെ നിയമിക്കാനിടയായി. അതുപോലെയുള്ള റൊവ്യൂ ഇപ്പോൾ ദേവികുളം കമ്മീഷണർ നേരിട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നുപരിശോധിക്കാം.

PRESIDENT: The motion relates to the Assistant Commissioner at Peermade.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): The necessity for the Division Assistant depends on the work of the Commissioner.

PRESIDENT: Oh! that is one of the reasons.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): If I am not in order, I will not proceed further.

PRESIDENT: You may go on.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ഫോൺ മകരം നാൻ കൂടിയ നിയമസഭയിൽ ൪൧ (൧൦൯),

൪൨ (൧൧൦), ൪൩ (൧൧൧), ൪൪ (൧൧൨) ഈ ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കുപറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള മറുപടികളിൽ നിന്നും ദേവികളും കമ്മീഷണർ അവിടെ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന ജോലികളുടെ പരിമാണം വ്യക്തമായി ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. ദേവികളും കമ്മീഷണർ റവന്യൂ അപ്പീൽ കേസുകൾ തീരുമാനിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിന്റെ കണക്കുകൾ നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ മൂന്നാണ്ടിലെ കിടപ്പുപട ൧൦൯൫-ൽ ൫ കേസുകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതിൽ ൪-൦, ൧൦൯൬-ൽ ൬ കേസുകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതിൽ ൫-൦, ൧൦൯൭-ൽ ൩-കേസുകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതിൽ ൩-൦ കേസുകൾ തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ൧൦൯൮-ൽ ഒരു കേസുണ്ടായിരുന്നത് ആ ആണ്ടിൽ തീർത്തിട്ടില്ല. ദേവികളും കമ്മീഷണർ നേരിട്ടു നടപടി നടത്തി തീരുമാനിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള റവന്യൂ കേസുകളുടെ കണക്കു നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ൧൦൯൫-ൽ ൬൫-൦, ൧൦൯൬-ൽ ൩൯-൦, ൧൦൯൭-ൽ ൧൭-൦, ൧൦൯൮-ൽ ൩൭-൦ കേസുകൾ തീർത്തിട്ടുള്ളതായും കാണാവുന്നതാണ്.

ഏകദേശമായി ഭൂമികളെ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാനുള്ള അപേക്ഷകളെപ്പറ്റി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ മൂന്ന് ആണ്ടുകളിലെ കിടപ്പുപട

൧൦൯൫-ൽ ൩൫൯ കേസുകളിൽ ൧൨൫-൦

൧൦൯൬-ൽ ൨൫൫ കേസുകളിൽ ൧൨൧-൦

൧൦൯൭-ൽ ൧൩൭ കേസുകളിൽ ൯൬-൦

൧൦൯൮-ൽ ൪൨ കേസുകളിൽ ൧൫-൦

തീർത്തിരിക്കുന്നതായി കാണുന്നു.

ഭൂമി സംരക്ഷണ ഗുലേഷൻ പ്രകാരമുള്ള അപ്പീൽ കേസുകളിൽ ദേവികളും കമ്മീഷണർ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ജോലികളെ നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ

൧൦൯൫-ൽ ഒരു കേസുണ്ടായിരുന്നതു തീർത്തിട്ടില്ല.

൧൦൯൬-ൽ ൬ കേസുകളിൽ ൫ എണ്ണം തീർത്തിരിക്കുന്നു.

൧൦൯൭-ൽ ൨ കേസുകളിൽ ൨-൦ തീർത്തിരിക്കുന്നു.

൧൦൯൮-ൽ ഒരു കേസുണ്ടായിരുന്നതു തീർത്തിട്ടില്ല.

മേൽവിവരിച്ച കണക്കുകൾകൊണ്ടു ദേവികളും കമ്മീഷണർക്കുള്ള റവന്യൂ ജോലികളുടെ പരിമാണം ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്.

ഇനി ദേവികളും കമ്മീഷണർക്കുള്ള ക്രിമിനൽ കേസുകളെപ്പറ്റി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ൧൦൯൮-ൽ ൧൧ കേസുകളെ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതും എന്ന് കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. ദേവികളും എന്നൊരു ഡിവിഷണെ പ്രത്യേകം

[Mr. K. Dominic Tomman.]

സൃഷ്ടിക്കും അതിലേക്കു മേധാവിയായി ചേർക്കാനുണ്ടെ സ്ഥാനത്തിൽ ഒരു വെട്ടുകയും വേണമെന്നുള്ള സംഗതിയിൽ തൽക്കാലം സമ്മതിക്കാമെന്നെന്നാലും അവിടെയൊരു അസിസ്റ്റൻറു കമ്മീഷണറുടെ ആവശ്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കാൻ നിർദ്ദേശമില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഉദ്യോഗം അവിടെ ഒരിക്കലും ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഇവിടെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾപ്പറ്റി എപ്പോഴും എല്ലാ വഴികളിലും കഠിനമായി ആക്ഷേപിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ആവശ്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതലായ ഇത്തരം ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളെ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത് ഒരിക്കലും വിഹിതമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When I heard Mr. Robinson cataloguing the duties of the Division Assistant at Peermade, I began to think that more or less his presence there was necessary. But after hearing Mr. Krishna Aiyar and Mr. Kumara Pillai my angle of vision has changed. Mr. Krishna Aiyar, who appears to know about matters at Peermade, has clearly proved much by chapter and verse that the arguments advanced by Mr. Robinson are more or less a sort of fiction.

PRESIDENT: Fiction?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Not exactly fiction. That it cannot hold water for a moment. Mr. Kumara Pillai's arguments appear to be a little bit of revelation. I do not think any special pleading is necessary on this part of the House to convince the House that this is one of those sinecures of the Travancore departments. I therefore strongly support Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai's motion to do away with the Assistant Commissionership at Peermade, expressing my regret and surprise to find that, after this House had passed the motion with an overwhelming majority this time last year, this sinecure should still continue.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): I oppose the motion and, on behalf of the community I represent, would ask that the place of Assistant Commissioner should be retained. It would be a great hardship to the planters in that part of the country if Kottayam were made the headquarters of the district. It may suit the convenience of Messrs. Krishna Aiyar and Dominic Tomman to have the headquarters transferred to Kottayam or Kanjirapalli. But it would certainly not suit the convenience of the planters and in this case it is they that should be considered. They do not ask much of Government as a rule and I think that some consideration should be shown to them.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade cum Devicolum*): Sir, I support the motion. It may be supposed that there is no work even for the Commissioner of Devicolum, because, if the Peermade Assistantship is abolished, Peermade will have to be placed under the

Kottayam Dewan Peishkar. Then the jurisdiction of the Devicolam Commissioner may extend only to the Devicolam taluk. It may be seen that a major portion of the Devicolam taluk belongs to the K. D. H. P. & Co, *i. e.*, about 270 square miles in extent. Within that concession area our revenue authorities have very little work to do. The remaining portion of the Devicolam taluk extends over reserved forests or grass lands.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): Does the gentleman know what he is talking about?

PRESIDENT: You are putting it rather strongly.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade cum Devicolam*): Yes, I know. Besides a few villages in Anjanad and a few tea estates outside the concession are, there are also a few shrubby areas which are not inhabited.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I know from Mr. Dominic Tomman whether he does not think that such a scarcely inhabited and scattered place in the hills and so on, should receive special attention? If the Peermade Division Assistant is taken away, should there not be a responsible officer to look after—

MR. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade cum Devicolam*): A Tahsildar is enough.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The Tahsildar is the responsible officer to take the initiative.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade cum Devicolam*): The Kottayam Peishkar can reach Peermade in six hours, at least in a shorter drive than the Commissioner can reach.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I know whether he has ever travelled through the Cardamom Hills?

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade cum Devicolam*): Yes, Sir, I have.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Has he not got to walk?

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade cum Devicolam*): Yes.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Has he not to take his things on headloads?

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade cum Devicolam*): Yes.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Is it possible for officers of Government to travel more than 10 or 15 miles a day owing to the hills and dales?

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade cum Devicolam*): Yes, Sir. The Commissioner travels only during the hot season.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Will he be in a position to move from place to place, *i. e.*, to the Cardamom Hills and other places, without walking?

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade cum Devicolum*) : Yes, by getting on horseback.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Only fifteen miles a day at the most.

PRESIDENT : Is that a question or an answer ?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : It is a question.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade cum Devicolum*) : So, if sufficient work will have to be given to the Devicolum Commissioner the post is to be retained. Either Muvattupuzha or Todupuzha may be placed under the Devicolum Commissioner than Peermade which is far away from Devicolum. By this the Government will thus even save the travelling allowance of the Commissioner of Devicolum. With these observations, I support the motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Sir, I thought that I need not tell the reasons that induced the Council in coming at a decision last time in relation to this particular question.

PRESIDENT : May I point out, Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, in connection with your motion to reduce Rs. 4,800 from the allotment of Rs. 53,424 under establishment--Division Cutcherries,—that, if it does not represent the salary of the Peermade Assistant, it is difficult to see what it does represent. I may tell you for your information that the entire cost of the establishment of that officer is only Rs. 2,407.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : I may just explain why I want to reduce Rs. 4,800. In sending up the motion I had explained why I have taken that figure.

PRESIDENT : Yes, please explain.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Under Division Cutcherries, Rs. 68,700 on Salaries and allowances are not votable. Under Division Cutcherries Rs. 53,424 is the amount for establishment. The only means whereby this Council can discuss or pass any motion relating to any non-votable item, or with a view to bring to discussion any non-votable item, will be by moving for a reduction in the establishment.

PRESIDENT : Does it not relate to the establishment of that particular office ?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : As a matter of fact, it is out of the total allotment under Division Cutcherries that I have brought the motion. In its present form my motion would involve not only the cutting down of the establishment of that Division Assistant but it would also involve making other reductions in the establishment of Division Cutcherries. Rather, it would have this effect, namely, that if this motion is carried, the establishment under Division Cutcherries will have to be provided for out of the salary

of the Division Assistant of Devicolam whose salary amounts to Rs. 4,800.

PRESIDENT: That does not follow.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): In other words, the only way in which we can give effect to it is to move for a reduction of Rs. 4,800 out of the establishment charges so that it will have to be met by the Government in the way pointed out by this House.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that it can be allowed, because it amounts practically to your resolving on a non-votable item.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The only way in which we can give effect to our motion, since it is not possible for the non-official members of this House to reduce the salary of any particular officer if it is above Rs. 125, is to indirectly move for the reduction of that amount which represents the salary of that officer out of the establishment.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid that it is a new principle which is being sought to be established and which I think cannot be accepted. You cannot bring before the House a motion which really amounts to the cutting of a non-votable item. If the House passes it, what would be its effect?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): It would not affect the votable item but it would affect the non-votable items only.

PRESIDENT: It must affect only votable items and not non-votable items,—I mean, if the Government do not see their way to give effect to the intentions of the motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): If the Government do not give effect to the intention of the House in regard to this motion, naturally the effect of it will be to cut down Rs. 4,800 out of the establishment of the Division Assistant. That is what I am pointing out.

PRESIDENT: That is a serious matter. It will affect the entire establishment of the Division Assistant and more.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): That is exactly the position that I wanted to impress upon the House. My motion I have deliberately put in. That is the reduction of Rs. 4,800 out of the establishment charges so that it might have some effect upon the Government. On the last occasion when we moved for a reduction on this account, it was discussed on the motion for reduction of Rs. 100 out of the total establishment. It would not have had any serious effect upon the Government at all, unless they had intended to carry out the wishes of the House. Such a motion when passed had not the desired effect. Therefore it is that I have proposed a reduction of Rs. 4,800 out of the establishment charges so that the Government may be obliged to take this Rs. 4,800 by giving real effect to the intention of this House.

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: I think it is hardly in order.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Of course, there was a precedent not in this House but in the Madras Legislative Council upon which reliance was placed even last time.

PRESIDENT: I do not remember that.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask the member whether he knows that to give effect to the proposal would mean the cancelling of a contract entered into already?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I am coming to that. I was dealing only with the nature of the motion as it is and not on the merits of it. In regard to the latter point, I was waiting for the reasons stated by the Revenue Commissioner as to why the Government were not in a position to give effect to the motion passed last time by this House. Mr. Robinson's first point was that Government had already entered into a covenant with the Division Assistant.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I think Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai has misunderstood me. What I said was that I was not in a position to know at what date they commenced correspondence the result of which was the covenant. The contract is for three years and it is not possible to have it discontinued without breaking the contract.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The question is whether Government entered into that contract after ascertaining the wishes of this House.

PRESIDENT: I have not got any accurate recollection of the thing. But, I think that negotiations had too far advanced for retracting. The negotiations must have been concluded before this motion was brought up before the House last year.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The present Division Assistant took charge on the 12th Chingam, 1099.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): He was confirmed only subsequently.

PRESIDENT: There is no confirmation in his case.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): He has taken charge only after the motion in this House was passed.

PRESIDENT: That is true; but the covenant must have been concluded before the motion was made.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): At any rate my point is that that is not a sufficient reason for not carrying out the wishes of this House.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know from the member whether the existence of any contract was disclosed during the time of the last discussion?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): From that discussion I have not been able to see whether there was any such contract or contemplated contract, or whether the Government had contemplated any such contract.

PRESIDENT: It was not mentioned. Evidently it did not strike Mr. Robinson that it was necessary to mention it.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): It was not mentioned. For the last few months when the Devicolam Commissioner had gone on leave both the duties were being performed by one and the same officer. This Division Assistant is now doing the duties of the Devicolam Commissioner as well. He is now at Devicolam and he has been doing his duties well at Devicolam. It is now some months since that arrangement was given effect to and I do not know whether the arrangement has been stated to be unsatisfactory. The only grounds stated are those which have already been stated during the last budget discussion and this House had taken all these facts into consideration when it originally passed this motion. I do not know whether there will be any useful purpose served by carrying this motion in this House because, when once a similar motion was carried, no effect has been given to it for reasons best known to Government.

PRESIDENT: One additional reason has been given and that is that a contract has been entered into with that officer.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): As they have already entered into a contract with that officer before the last budget session, the omission on the part of the Government to mention that fact at the last budget discussion would indicate that, after all, that was not an insurmountable obstacle. And especially, seeing that the Commissioner took charge only in Chingam, 1099, after the motion of this House against it was passed, I should consider that it is not a sufficient reason. At any rate, I would request this House once again to press their recommendation to Government that this place be abolished.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I think Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai does not rightly understand the difficulty about the position. Supposing the present incumbent in charge of the office is asked to go away. This would mean the breach of a contract that has already been entered into.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know when the contract was entered into—whether it was after the passing of the resolution or before the passing of the resolution?

PRESIDENT: Much before. It is an agreement between two Governments.

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): When was the agreement signed? Was it after the passing of the resolution or before the passing of the resolution?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): It was about six months before the resolution that the negotiations were started. I ask the House if they are willing to lose a good name or to keep up a contract once started on. It has been started and it is now too late to withdraw. The House has already expressed its opinion last year. We know what the consequences will be if this motion is carried.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know whether the existence of the covenant is the only thing in the way of abolishing this post?

PRESIDENT: That is not what he says. The existence of the covenant is not the only thing against the acceptance of the motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know how long it is since Mr. Cameron went on leave?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I think it was published in the *Gazette*.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I should like to know from the Land Revenue Commissioner whether he is in a position to tell us how long it is since the present incumbent, Mr. Cameron, went on leave?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): It is about two months since he went on leave.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): May I know whether there is any special term in the covenant that he should be kept in a particular place or is to do a particular work?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not seen the covenant and I am not in a position to answer the member.

PRESIDENT: The covenant relates to a particular appointment.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How long is he to be in the service of Government?

PRESIDENT: For two years more as Mr. Robinson has already informed the House.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): If the motion is passed, it will have serious consequences. It will mean putting a stop to the whole Department, and as it has already been brought to the notice of the Council, it involves the good name of the Government to go back upon and break the contract already entered into. So, I would ask Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai if he cannot withdraw the motion or in any way reduce it to some nominal sum.

PRESIDENT: I will put this motion to the vote of the House if Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai wishes to press it. But I must tell the House that its exact effect will have to be examined even if it is passed by the House. I am not sure whether it will be a motion that can be followed even if it is passed.

The motion was put to the vote of the House and declared carried, 23 voting for and 20 against.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result:—

AYES—23.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. T. M. Chidambaranu Pillai. | 13. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai. |
| 2. „ Paul V. Daniel. | 14. „ M. N. Pillai. |
| 3. „ A. Govinda Menon. | 15. „ J. John Nidiry. |
| 4. „ A. Hoogewerf. | 16. „ Joseph Panjikaran. |
| 5. „ C. P. Kochukunju Pillai. | 17. „ G. Paramesvaran Pillai. |
| 6. „ M. R. Madhava Variar. | 18. „ K. Paramesvaran Pillai |
| 7. The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vetti-
kkapalli. | (<i>Tiruvalla</i> .) |
| 8. Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai. | 19. „ L. R. Raja Raja Varma |
| 9. „ Tariatu Kunjitomman. | Koil Tampuran. |
| 10. „ T. Kumara Pillai. | 20. „ N. Ramakrishna Pillai. |
| 11. „ N. Kumaran. | 21. „ C. Ramankunju. |
| 12. „ S. Krishna Aiyar. | 22. „ C. Sankara Menon. |
| | 23. „ K. Dominic Tomman. |

NOES—20.

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| 1. Mr. I. C. Chacko. | 12. Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai. |
| 2. „ R. Dhanukoti Pillai | (<i>Ag. Director of Agriculture</i> .) |
| 3. „ K. George. | 13. „ P. Parmesvaran. |
| 4. „ K. Govinda Pillai. | 14. „ M. Raja Raja Varma. |
| 5. „ M. K. Khadir Pillai. | 15. Rao Bahadur K. V. |
| 6. „ R. Krishna Pillai. | Rangaswami Aiyangar. |
| 7. „ R. K. Krishna Pillai. | 16. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson. |
| 8. „ T. Lakshmana Pillai. | 17. „ J. Stephenson. |
| 9. „ John Mackie. | 18. „ V. Subba Aiyar. |
| 10. „ K. V. Natesa Aiyar. | 19. „ S. Subrahmanya Karayalar. |
| 11. „ S. Paramesvara Aiyar. | 20. „ Trivikramar Vasudevar. |

The motion was declared to have been carried.

Motion 4.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanam-titta*): Sir, I rise to move the following:—

4. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,78,245 for Establishment by Rs. 100.

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

The object of the motion is to discuss the question whether Devicolam should be retained as a separate division. In the light of the discussion with regard to the previous motion, almost all the facts which I have to advert to were brought out. But a doubt was entertained whether a motion passed by the Council with regard to a non-votable item would be accepted by the Government. But my motion does not relate to the Division Assistant or the Commissioner. It dealt with the question of abolition or the retention of the Devicolam Division. The Devicolam Division consists only of two taluks, *viz.*, Devicolam and Peermade. Mr. Krishna Aiyar and Mr. Dominic Tomman, who are conversant with the details of the administration in the Devicolam Division, have told us that there is not much work for a Division Assistant and for a Commissioner in Devicolam. When this question was discussed last time, Mr. Robinson opposed the motion on the ground that Devicolam Division is inaccessible from outside and that it consists of big *pakuthies* and that a responsible officer should be on the spot just to see that income tax is properly collected and criminal work is properly done.

First, with regard to the question of inaccessibility. The Devicolam Division is now under the District Superintendent of Quilon and moreover the forest jurisdiction of the Devicolam Division is under a Divisional Forest Officer who is not resident in Devicolam. If the Devicolam Division is accessible to a D. S. P. and a D. F. O., I do not know why it should not be accessible to a revenue officer who is staying in Kottayam and a Revenue Commissioner who is staying in Devicolam who will have to go to Devicolam if he is to proceed to Peermade. So it will be easy for a revenue officer to go to Peermade or to Devicolam. Considering the extent of the Revenue Divisions in the State I think it is ridiculous to have these two taluks as a separate division and to appoint high-paid officers to administer the Division.

Then, with regard to the second question of the bigness of *pakuthies*, Mr. Dominic Tomman has told us that the major portion of the Division consists of the Kannan Devan Hills and some grassy lands together with some estates, and out of 1,120 sq. miles of the Devicolam Division only 14 per cent. is cultivated and there are only about fifty-six thousand and odd persons living in the Devicolam Division, the major portion of whom are labourers. Even if the *pakuthies* are big, I do not think that the Revenue Commissioner or the Assistant Commissioner is going to visit every corner of the *pakuthi* as they have no business to go there. The *proverthicar* and the Tahsildar will go there for revenue and other purposes.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask the member whether he is not aware of the fact that the Commissioner or the Dewan Peishkar of the District has to inspect every *pakuthi* once in a year?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanam-titta*): Yes, I know that the Dewan Peishkar or the Division Assistant

will have to visit the *pakuthies* once a year. I do not think that it is very difficult to visit all these *pakuthies* in Devicolam for the Dewan Peishkār in Kottayam *once in a year* and not once in a month. It is not very difficult and, moreover, these *pakuthies* are not populous, and as was stated by Mr. Dominic Tomman and Mr. Krishna Aiyar, most of them consist of grassy lands and reserve forest and some estates.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask whether the member has ever been up there?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanam-titta*): I have not been there.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Is it possible for him to say anything definitely without having been there?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanam-titta*): I think I must be convinced before I support the motion for the retention of the Devicolam Division. Though I have not gone to Devicolam, from the arguments advanced by the other members I think there is no necessity for the retention of Devicolam as a separate Division. Then, it was argued that it was kept for the development of cultivation in the Devicolam Division. Perhaps the Devicolam Division may be better cultivated after some time, and, when there is room for more collection of revenue, some other officers will have to be appointed for the collection of revenue but not a Revenue Commissioner or a Division Assistant for that matter.

With regard to the work that is done by the Revenue Commissioner and the Division Assistant the answers given by the Government to the questions asked by Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar merely show that these officers have not got sufficient work. So, considering all these facts it will be better for the Government to abolish the Devicolam Division. So I move to reduce Rs. 100 from this establishment.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I would oppose the motion on grounds of expediency as well as of necessity.

The isolated position of Devicolam, situated, as it is, about sixty miles away from the nearest inhabited place in the Kottayam Division, as well as its importance as a thriving centre of industry render it essential that there should be a responsible district officer on the spot. By whatever name you may call him, he should be one having all the powers of a Division Peishkar and District Magistrate.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade cum Devicolam*): May I know whether a Division Assistant would not do?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have already said no.

Upon his prestige and influence will depend the prestige of the Travancore Government at the place, and any attempt at interfering with this position will not, I fear, be beneficial to the interests of Government—that is, the country at large. Devicolam is mainly a colony of

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

European planters, that is Devicolam of the High Ranges, and the civilization there is mainly European in its inception and progress.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): I beg to know from the Revenue Commissioner what revenue the whole Division will yield in a year?

PRESIDENT: What revenue?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): All kinds of revenue.

PRESIDENT: That is rather difficult.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I will tell the member presently. It is on His Highness' Government that the European planters who have vested interests there look for support, and committed, as they are to the care of His Highness the Maha Raja, they feel and recognise that their welfare is identical with the welfare of the State and deeply cherish in their heart the solicitude of His Highness for their continued well-being. It is the Commissioner at Devicolam they consider as the interpreter between them and Government, and the influence he can wield will entirely depend on the position you give him in the official cadre. Sir, I am not guided by personal motives in arguing my point, but I am only impressing upon the House the position as it is and as it ought to be of the district officer at Devicolam who stands between the Government of Travancore and the public there who are partly highly-paid Europeans and mostly irresponsible coolies from Tamil countries whose idea of the Government is formed on the position of the district officer stationed there. Any infringement of the privileges of his position will be highly deplored by them. If the House should consider that such an infringement is possible or necessary I can only say I regret.

I reiterate what I said before, that, whatever designation be given to the district officer, he ought to have all the powers of a Division Peishkar. For it will never be possible for the Division Peishkar of Kottayam to exercise any effective supervision over Devicolam even if the western outlet road is in good order, which I fear it is not in many parts of the year. It is no use drawing an analogy between the Revenue Department and the Forest or the P. W. Department. They do not have to be continually up there to supervise the work. So these two departments cannot be compared together. The P. W. D. has very little to do there, as the communications mostly belong to the K. D. H. P. Company, and the same thing must be said of the Forest Department also. The revenue work on the other hand at Devicolam is considerable and the income tax work is enormous. The income tax accruing to Government is more than two lakhs of rupees. The assesses are about sixty in number.

The land revenue demand as per last year's accounts is Rs. 2,33,867. At least for the sake of revenue it is essential that there should be a responsible officer like the Commissioner at Devicolam.

If you ask me whether an Assistant will not do, I will say it will never do on any grounds whatever. The officer stationed there should be one who has the power of taking the initiative whenever emergency occurs as well as at other times. An Assistant who is under the control of a superior officer stationed at Kottayam will not do for the station. I may say from my long experience at Devicolam that there is a large volume of official correspondence in the Devicolam Division, and most of it relates to important matters of dispute between the Government and others, and a district officer having some knowledge of the place and of local conditions is essential.

On all these grounds, I would request the House to think over the matter well before they hazard even a suggestion to Government which may be fraught with ever-lasting evil consequences in the interests of Government. The grant was passed last year and I ask the House not to go back on what it resolved last year.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Most of the arguments advanced by Mr. Robinson appear to turn round sentiment. European colony, European officer and prestige.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I do not think that I mentioned that there should be a European officer. I never said such a thing.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I thought his very strong point was in favour of a European officer being stationed at Devicolam. If that is not a point, I have very little else to say. Mr. Madhava Variar has brought forward all the arguments in support of the motion.

PRESIDENT: There are both Europeans and Indians there.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): It is a very big European colony. I understand that the idea that there should be only a European officer there is vanishing.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I never said that there should be a European officer.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If that is not the strong argument advanced, the question is very easy for this House to solve, because there is nothing difficult in the revenue and other aspects of the question.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Is the collection of Rs. 2 lakhs of income tax nothing?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): As pointed out by Mr. Krishna Aiyar the planters of the coffee estates and tea estates are gentlemen who send their money without any hitch.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I made no reflection on either the coffee estate people or the tea or rubber cultivator or anybody else.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The District Superintendent of Police is stationed at Quilon and he has jurisdiction over Devicolam. This shows how very law-abiding the coffee estate and tea

[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

estate Europeans and their coolies are. Mr. Robinson wants to make out the need for a District Magistrate at Devicolam for preservation of peace. But the District Superintendent of Police is several miles away.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Is it due to the District Superintendent of Police who is away from the place or the District Magistrate who is on the spot?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The very fact that the District Superintendent of Police who has to deal with the people, if they go beyond their bounds, is so far away from the District Magistrate is a proof that the Magistrate is simply a figure-head.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Patanamtitta*): I have nothing more to say.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I think this House is convinced that it is most undesirable to pass this motion. It may perhaps be possible to transfer some of the *pakuthies* in the Kottayam Division to the Devicolam Division, but to abolish the Devicolam Division is absolutely impossible in view of the amount of work that has to be carried on in that Division by an officer of the status of a Division Peishkar.

PRESIDENT: I will put this motion to the vote of the House.
The motion was put to the vote and lost.

Motion 5.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): I beg to move the following motion:—

5: To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,000 for travelling allowances of officers by Rs. 1,000.

This allotment of Rs. 11,000 appears to be intended for the travelling allowances of the three Peishkars, the Commissioner, Devicolam, and eight Division Assistants. In view of the fact that one of the Division Assistants has been done away with by a previous motion, I believe a reduction of Rs. 1,000 must consequently follow. Further, I have to state that the actual amount of money spent in 1097 appears to be Rs. 13,470. The budget allotment for 1098 was only 10,000. It may be argued that there was a reduction of one Peishkar. But there is the other fact that the number of Division Assistants was increased from six to eight in the very same year. So that, the reduction of one Peishkar cannot affect the figure at all. And the actual amount that has been spent on this account in 1098 was only Rs. 10,691. Now that the travelling allowance of one Division Assistant according to the previous motion has to be deducted from the amount, I think a sum of Rs. 10,000 will be quite enough and that Mr. Robinson will accept the reduction. I see that in the budget itself the amount allotted for the travelling allowance of the establishment came to Rs. 4,145 in 1098 and a reduction of Rs. 145 has been made in the provision for the same in

the budget. Taking all these into consideration I think that my proposal for a reduction of a small sum of Rs. 1,000 will be accepted, especially in view of the fact that the previous motion for doing away one of the Division Assistants has been passed.

PRESIDENT: The motion was not to do away with the Division Assistant. But it was about the allotment under establishment. That was the motion that was passed.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I may state here at the outset that the travelling allowance drawn by the Division Assistant at Peermade is very little. The Division Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolum, have always complained that they have not got the necessary allotment for travelling allowance to enable them to do the touring work which they have to do. The House has more than once expressed its desire that officers should tour about more frequently and all over the country, and if they ought to do that, more funds ought to be granted. A sum of Rs. 13,000 was asked for in the departmental budget, but the Government have cut it down to 11,000. The sum provided in the budget is meant to cover the travelling allowance of three Division Peishkars, the Commissioner, Devicolum, and eight Division Assistants and three Divisional Treasury Officers. With the introduction of the annual *Jamabandi* and the Revenue Division charges, the Division Assistants have become more or less touring officers. They have got inspection work, *Jamabandi* work and other works. These officers will have additional touring work in connection with the ensuing election of members for the next Legislative Council. As it is highly necessary that these officers should go on circuit very often to the several offices subordinate to them and gain first-hand information as to the actual state of affairs, I am sorry that I have to strongly oppose any reduction in the allotment already provided for. The amount provided for is itself barely sufficient to meet the requirements of the year. If the officers should do more touring work, the necessary funds should be granted. The House, surely, does not want them to go round lying on the land. They have heavy expenses in travelling in the way of cart hire, toll, T. B. fees and even feeding their low-paid followers. Take for instance the present time of distress. How is it possible for officers to go round seeing the distress and to ascertain what steps are necessary to relieve people and to whom relief should be granted, if adequate funds are not granted to meet their travelling allowance? In fact I would ask the members for more funds being given as originally recommended by me. I therefore oppose the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I oppose the motion on a different ground. Whether the allotment be Rs. 11,000 or 10,000 the amount actually availed of by the officer will be the figure that is due under the head of travelling allowance. It does not matter what the allotment is. If he covers a certain number of miles he will have to be paid on that ground. I too oppose the motion.

[The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapallai.]

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Sir, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 6 to 9.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

6. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,000 for travelling allowances of officers by Rs. 10.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

7. To omit the allotment of Rs. 135 for hot weather charges.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

8. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for fuel reserve in Devicolam by Rs. 1,000.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON:

9. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 76,315 for Division Cutcherries by Rs. 100.

Motion 10.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): I beg to move the following motion:—

10. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 76,315 for Division Cutcherries by Rs. 10.

My object in sending up this motion is in the first place, to suggest the desirability of abolishing the Peishkars and creating Assistant Commissioners. From the time of the creation of a Land Revenue Commissioner it has been repeatedly suggested in this House as well as elsewhere to abolish the post of the Division Peishkars and to create Assistant Commissioners on a smaller pay.

I need not here repeat all the arguments in favour of such a step. The arrangement will, besides making a good saving, go to a great extent to solve the much-agitated problem of separating the judiciary from the executive.

What the Dewan has said in his presidential address at the twentieth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, regarding the work of the Division Assistants, is equally true as regards the work of the Division Peishkars. He says:

"It is becoming increasingly evident that the Division Assistants are unable to keep clear of arrears on account of the substantial addition which the revenue and income and all functions have contributed to their otherwise exclusively magisterial work, while the restrictions to their movements imposed by considerations of convenience to the litigant public are militating against their usefulness as revenue officers. Possibly their revenue duties have also the effect of hampering their work as Magistrates."

From this we see that the Government themselves keenly feel the desirability of separating these two functions. When these two functions are separated, certainly, there will be no further necessity of retaining a highly-paid officer of the Division Peishkar's status.

Moreover the appointment of Assistant Revenue Commissioners, as has been pointed out in this House, will make the land revenue work smooth all round.

In the second place, I wish to urge once more on the Government the immediate necessity of doing away with the present system of promotion to the higher offices of the Divisions from the Devaswom Department. This matter has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Government both publicly and privately. I understand that the present Dewan himself, soon after the Devaswom separation was effected, admitted the great injustice of this arrangement in conversation. But like many other things it continues as before. Even during the last two days, this question, as well as the general recruitment to the Revenue Department, formed the subject of much complaint from some of the members. It is most gratifying to know that the members of the favoured communities are in full sympathy with our aspirations and claims. I waited patiently to hear from the Financial Secretary some explanation or at least a word of consolation in regard to this matter which concerns the interests of two-thirds of His Highness' subjects. But his lips appeared to have been completely sealed on this point, although he had so much to say about so many other things of comparatively little importance.

The only conclusion that we can draw from this silence is that the Government attach little or no importance to the legitimate claims of about 30 out of 40 lakhs of His Highness' subjects.

PRESIDENT: There was hardly time for official members to have their say.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): He did not say a single word in regard to that. It may be because we are loyal to the backbone, not clamorous, have no god-fathers and take everything lying down. I would beg of you, Sir, not to forget the fact that the school master is abroad and that this is an age of democracy. Even a worm may turn. Parochial and partisan methods of administration should give way to generosity, high-mindedness and statesmanship. Please do not think that we are on our knees begging for special favours. As citizens of a free land we claim only bare justice and fair-play.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I oppose the motion. No reason has been shown as to why the Division Peishkars should be abolished. The member's speech refers mostly to equal rights to all communities among His Highness' subjects in Government service. There is no objection to making a change in the designation, but I do not think that will do any good. A change in the designation may not affect the power but the respect and prestige of Government. I do not think it is necessary for me to go into the point. I have written a long speech about it, but the points I have touched have not been touched by the member and no reason shown why the Division Peishkars should be abolished. The post of Peishkars is more or less equal to that of the Collector in British India. It has been existing here from time immemorial, and I do not think the House will vote for the abolition of these Peishkars.

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. The question of separating the functions of the judiciary and the executive is being examined, but that would not dispense with the necessity of having Peishkars who are District Magistrates and are responsible for the peace of their districts and for co-ordinating the work of the subordinate revenue and magisterial officers under them.

In regard to the question of recruitment incidentally raised by Rev. Father Vettikkapalli, I should like to say a word. This question is engaging the serious attention of Government, and the Director of Office Systems and myself are tackling it at the present moment. The House forgets that a serious consideration of the question earlier was premature in view of the stoppage of recruitment during the retrenchment, and the figures of retrenchment made subsequently were available to Government not long ago. A critical examination of the figures along with other work is not an easy matter, and any conclusion drawn and methods devised in undue haste would be comparatively valueless. Nor is the question so easy of solution as some of my non-official friends seem to imagine. Even in this House, there are differences of opinion as to the methods best calculated to remedy the defect. While some members advocate the introduction of a competitive examination, others question its appropriateness. Mr. Madhava Variar, for example, suggested the introduction of a competitive examination for recruitment to the service. It might be well to introduce a system of direct recruitment to the higher grade in certain departments by throwing a fixed percentage of the appointments to open competition. Such an arrangement would no doubt ensure efficiency and also would be an effective safeguard against official jobbery, but it clashes with the principle of communal representation.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know whether the Government accept the principle of communal representation in the public service?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government consider that all communities should have equal opportunities to enter the public service.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Do the Government accept the principle of percentage of communal representation in respect of—

PRESIDENT: There is no question of percentage. The whole question is being examined. As the Chief Secretary said, it is not very easy of solution.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachi*): What length of time will the Government require to come to a conclusion?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The question is being considered. I do not think it will be very long before the Government could come to a conclusion.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Will it take, say, six months?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say definitely.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): We have got a statement from the Government which gives the number of caste Hindus and others who have been appointed in the Revenue Department since the separation of the Devaswom Department. Does this recruitment tally with the declared policy of the Government to give equal opportunities to all communities?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): As mentioned already, recruitment was stopped during rerenchment. In regard to the appointments made by heads of departments since recruitment recommenced, the figures were available only recently. The figures are being examined. Government are also examining how heads of departments have exercised their powers of patronage. Unless the whole thing is carefully examined, it is not possible to say definitely when they will come to a conclusion.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): When the separation of the Devaswom Department was made, were not circulars sent to heads of departments as to the method of recruiting, especially to the Land Revenue Commissioner?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No circulars were issued in regard to appointments.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): So it has been left as free as before.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We have not arrived at any conclusion in regard to the question of recruitment. The whole question is being considered. The figures in regard to appointments subsequent to the separation of the Devaswom department from the Revenue Department and subsequent to the re-commencement of recruitment are being carefully examined. Unless all these figures are examined it would be difficult to arrive at any conclusion.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): So far as the figures that have arrived are concerned, is he in a position to say whether appointments were rightly made by the several officers?

PRESIDENT: That is the very thing that is being examined.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanacherry cum Minachil*): May I know the result so far as the examination has proceeded?

PRESIDENT: The examination is going on.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Has the principle of representation by percentage of literacy been placed before Government for their consideration?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): By whom?

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): By anybody?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): May I know also whether one of the main objects of the separation of the Devaswom Department was to give due representation to the unrepresented classes in the service?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That was not the main object. It was one of the objects. The main object was to ensure the efficient administration of Devaswoms.

In Mysore the system of competitive examination has been in existence for a long time. The Miller Committee which sat some four years ago to enquire into the question of representation of all communities in the public service of that State recommended the substitution of competitive examination by selection by a board of representative officers. But this proposal did not commend itself to the Mysore Government. They declined to abolish the system of competitive examination but observed that the interests of backward communities could be sufficiently safeguarded by the nomination of an adequate number of candidates from among those classes on each occasion of recruitment by competition. The Mysore Government also sanctioned the creation of a Central Recruitment Board for registration of applications for appointments and to put applicants in touch with the offices where vacancies arise or exist. The Board has no power of direct appointments. The Madras Government have also constituted a Selection Board consisting of officials and non-officials for recruiting clerks for Madras offices and also for the direct recruitment to such posts as Deputy Tahsildars, Sub-Inspectors of Police, Salt Inspectors, etc. The literature on the subject of Staff Selection Boards under the Government of India shows that these boards are not the best means of achieving the object and the Government of India are going in for a change.

In this connection I must also point out that immoderate criticisms of Government would not help in the solution of a difficult question like this and sufficient time must be allowed for a proper decision being reached. The detailed consideration of the question necessarily involves a scrutiny of the way in which heads of departments and officers who have powers of appointment have been exercising their patronage since recruitment recommenced.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know whether Mr. Changanachery Paramesvaran Pillai's threat of yesterday has moved the Government in any way.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): What the threat is I do not exactly remember.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikand cum Kartikapalli*): If the Government have not understood it, it is all right.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Until the whole question is carefully scrutinised, it would be unwise for the Government to say how each departmental head has exercised his patronage. I shall conclude by saying that the question will be very carefully considered and a satisfactory solution arrived at.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Sir, I have great pleasure in seconding the motion brought forward by Rev. Fr. Vettikkappalli. In doing so, I have only to add that the separation of the judiciary from the Revenue Department has been agitated not only from this Council but also from the Assembly for years together, and the necessity more or less has been conceded in the remarks contained in the Dewan's address. Such being the case, I think there would not be much difference of opinion as to the advantage of such a separation. And if such a separation is effected, not only would there be a financial gain, but the working of the Judicial as well as the Revenue Department would be more feasible. On account of the dual functions of the Dewan Peishkars as District Magistrates and also as revenue district officers, neither the judicial work nor the revenue work is satisfactorily done. He will have to be always on tour and he has to delegate all the criminal appeal work to the Division Assistants. In fact he pays very little attention to the criminal appeal work which should legitimately go to the District Magistrate. If a separation is effected the District Magistrate may be put in place of the Division Peishkar and he will be able to do full justice to the function which is vested in him as District Magistrate. In my opinion the delegation of criminal appeal work to Division Assistants is not satisfactory and the criminal litigant suffers considerably by this sort of arrangement. Hence, if a separation is effected, the District Magistrates may be made fewer in number, and there will be proper supervision of the subordinate magistracy, and there will be very little room for complaint with regard to their supervision.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): In such a case, how many District Magistrates will be required for the whole State?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Say about three or four.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): What pay will have to be paid to each of the District Magistrates?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Say, from three hundred to four hundred rupees.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Does the member consider that a pay of three hundred to four hundred rupees is sufficient for a District Magistrate?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Say, four hundred to five hundred, if three hundred to four hundred is not high enough.

[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Then where is the saving?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): If you are very particular of having highly-paid District Magistrates, I have no objection. There must be some satisfactory way of carrying on revenue and magisterial functions.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know from Mr. Nidiry, what is the pay of the Additional District Magistrate of Nagercoil?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): That is new information to me. I thought there was only a Division Assistant with first class powers.

My submission, therefore, is that for the better discharge of the magisterial function a separation is highly necessary. Further, since we have got eight Division Assistants, and I hear some more are contemplated to be appointed, I think, along with these eight Division Assistants to have some three or four Division Peishkars with a Land Revenue Commissioner at the head, is a superfluity which could be avoided with great advantage.

I said in the last year's discussion that on account of the high status of the Dewan Peishkars there is no smooth working between the Land Revenue Commissioner and the Dewan Peishkars. So, for the smooth working of the Revenue Department also, the abolition will be desirable.

Sir, with regard to recruitment to the Revenue Department, as I have already indicated in my speech in connection with the general discussion, I am very sorry that, even after the separation of the Devaswoms, the Government are very inactive about the long-standing complaint of two-thirds of His Highness' subjects. It was a long-standing complaint that the revenue line was not open to them. The Revenue Department was separated two or three years ago. Even now things are going on as they were. The Chief Secretary has said that the Government are considering the matter. I think that sort of explanation is highly unsatisfactory. To decide a question which involves the vital interests of two-thirds of His Highness' subjects in such a lazy manner is quite unbecoming. If the Government are going to continue this sort of contemplative attitude, I do not know what will be the feelings of thirty lakhs of His Highness' subjects. If the Government propose to adopt such a leisurely and contemplative attitude, I do not think that it will be commendable to the Government themselves or that it will be acceptable to this House or to the people in general. I am strongly of the opinion that this contemplative spirit should be put an end to and it is

high time for the Government to come to a definite conclusion at an early stage. With these observations I support the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Sir, I beg to oppose the motion. The functions now devolving upon the Division Peishkars and discharged by them have to be worked out by some officer or other. Whether we call them Division Peishkars or Assistant Commissioners it is quite immaterial. The work has got to be done. The rose though called by any other name may smell sweet.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is there not another difficulty? The expression 'Division Peishkars' occurring in several Regulations and other orders will have to be changed.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Certainly.

The only argument put forward was that, at present, in the matter of recruitment, there was some difficulty or that recruitment was not proceeding in a manner which appeals to the mind of Rev. Fr. Vettikkappali and Mr. Nidiry. What that has to do with the abolition of the post of Division Peishkars and constituting the place of Assistant Commissioners is beyond me at any rate to understand. I also heard one other argument advanced by Mr. Nidiry about the separation of judicial and executive functions by appointing Assistant Commissioners in lieu of Division Peishkars. I do not know how it is going to affect that principle or position. Under these circumstances I do not see any argument that has been advanced in favour of abolishing Peishkars and creating Assistant Commissioners.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I beg to support the motion with a qualification which will be necessary in view of the speeches already delivered. The existing Division Peishkars have survived their times; that is to say, they came into being at a time entirely different from our own time. The Division Peishkars used to be something like satraps ruling over various Divisions of the State. That position has practically been now knocked on the head and they have been subordinated to the Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner. Further, much of the work that used to devolve upon Division Peishkars has also been removed. All the same, they continue in the pristine form in which they were brought into existence and it is time to see whether it will not be profitable, so far as the finances of the State are concerned, to appoint some other sort of officers in the place of Division Peishkars and effect a separation of the Judicial from the Revenue Department.

Again, tucked away under this particular motion, have been a number of questions with respect to the representation of various communities in Government service, especially in the Revenue Department and a number of kindred questions. With respect to that aspect, Sir, this House has been unanimous in one respect, *viz.*, that equal opportunities should be

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

afforded to all sections of His Highness' subjects to be represented in the services of the State. I must emphatically repudiate the idea that was given expression to yesterday by one of my friends on the non-official side when he said that such a suggestion has been turned down on a prior occasion and even ridiculed. I distinctly remember the utterances on that occasion, and it was to the effect that, conditions being equal, on the ground that an applicant belongs to a particular community, when he aspires to Government service, absolutely no barrier should be created in his pathway. That was the idea that was given expression to on that occasion and in the paramount interests of the State it was also distinctly pointed out that we cannot afford to lose sight of the principle of efficiency. It was without understanding the real discussion which took place on that occasion that the observation was made that the idea of equal opportunity to all communities was ridiculed in this House. I would even now insist that the principle of efficiency should be kept in the forefront. But we see that under the guise of the principle of efficiency various malpractices are resorted to. [Mr. T. Kumara Pillai : "Hear, hear"]—and questionable ways are also adopted by heads of departments, so much so that, what the learned Chief Secretary pointed out as immoderate criticism is inevitably indulged in. Immoderate abuses, certainly, Sir, call for immoderate criticism, and the Government alone must be held responsible for evoking such criticism. Instances have been pointed out in this House, where extremely questionable methods have been adopted by certain departmental heads in the matter of appointments. I ask what the Dewan of the State has done in the case of those officers thus unmasked in public. Nothing, so far as this House knows, was done, and hence probably all this anxiety for retaining the purity of the services and for giving equal opportunities to all communities. If strong criticism has been resorted to, the criticized, like philosophers, would have to reconcile themselves to the lot in the circumstances. The matter is one which requires clear and immediate attention. To that extent, I agree, generally with the criticism that was levelled against the Government with respect to appointments. To that extent, the question deserves attention, but not at the sacrifice of efficiency which, at all events, will have to be steadily kept in view. Of course, there is an amount of haziness in the complaint that has been made on the principle of representation. How are representative appointments to be made? Is it simply by a reckoning of the heads constituting the various communities or is it merely by taking into consideration the educated section of the different communities? On what particular principle the question has to be tackled, has not been definitely formulated by anybody. That is why, I say, there is an amount of haziness in the criticism. But, all the same, certain things are brought to the notice of this House year after year. Facts have been brought out in discussions, where *prima facie* a more qualified man has been

elbowed out, with little justification so far as the outside world is concerned, for the appointment of a man with decidedly inferior qualification. If such facts are brought to the notice of the Government and the Government are blind about them, then occasionally, intemperate language may originate from this side of the House which will have to be excused and listened to patiently by Government.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, no man can serve two masters. Both in the interest of law and order and revenue the separation suggested by Father Vettikkapalli is very sound. Duplication of functions cannot tend to efficiency. The Dewan Peishkar cannot do both functions satisfactorily. He has always a tendency to shirk his magisterial work. Divided responsibility also cannot produce good results. The Dewan Peishkar is far too big a man to be placed under the Revenue Commissioner. He always thinks of his former prestige, etc., and finds it very difficult to have an intermediary between himself and the Government.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I know what are the grounds for that assertion?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): That is a fact.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): As far as I know I do not think so.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Coming to the question of representation I should begin by thanking and congratulating one of the leaders of this House, Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, on the high stand he has taken on this question. There are very many members on this side of the House who take a similar stand and who are ready to give the right hand of fellowship to the backward classes—thirty lakhs of the population who are not properly represented in the public service. I subscribe to every word of Rev. Fr. Vettikkapalli on this very important question. I was surprised to hear from the Chief Secretary, of whom I have always entertained the highest respect, that the Government, in spite of the returns that have been placed before us, are still considering the matter! We do not want any preferential treatment to be given to any community. Efficiency certainly, as stated by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, can never be sacrificed in the interests of the public service. We want only justice and fair-play. I have very close knowledge of this matter, because I have interested myself on behalf of several graduates belonging to the communities, to the religion of which I also belong. Every door seems to be closed. Mr. Robinson was kind enough to take one man after a great deal of hammering at the door.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask the member how many men there are in the Department?

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I am not in charge of the Department. But from the returns I see many people not belonging to the community that I am referring to having been taken since the separation.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): By which officer?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The Revenue Commissioner is responsible for the sins of omission and commission of his subordinates. (*Laughter*.)

To repeat, Sir, we want only justice and fair-play. Things cannot go on as they do. We want more generous treatment. I interested myself in a young graduate, a B. A. (Hons.) who came here the other day to get a place on the staff of the Arts College. I went to the Chief Secretary who was very kind and said that the report about appointments had gone to the Dewan at Courtallum and asked me to hurry up with the application. I saw Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar, who was also sympathetic. And the Dewan very kindly appointed the man to the place. This is the sort of sympathy and kindness that we expect from the Government. In the interests of Government and in the interests of the people, the Government should take a wider aspect of the whole question.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഞാൻ പേഷ്വാരന്മാരെ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. ഡിവിഷൻ പേഷ്വാരന്മാർ ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തവരാണ്. ഞാൻ ബഡ്ജറ്റിന്റെ പൊതുവിമർശനത്തിൽ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതുപോലെ പേഷ്വാരന്മാരെ കൊണ്ടുവരിയ പ്രയോജനമൊന്നുമില്ല. ആ സ്ഥാനത്തേക്ക് അഡിസ്റ്റൻററവന്യൂക്ലമിഷണറന്മാരെ വെച്ചാൽ മതിയാകുന്നതാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ റവന്യൂ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടധികാരംകൂടിയുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ ഉപദ്രവമുണ്ട്. താഹ്സിൽദാർമാരിൽനിന്നു മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടധികാരം എടുത്തുകളഞ്ഞതുകൊണ്ടു ഗുണമുണ്ടെങ്കിലും പൂർണ്ണമായ ഗുണം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കിട്ടണമെങ്കിൽ മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടന്മാരുടെ മേലധികാരം വാരിക്കുറുപ്പിച്ച് മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടന്മാരും റവന്യൂ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരല്ലാതിരിക്കണം. റവന്യൂഭരണം ശരിയായി നടക്കുന്നതിനും അതാണ് നല്ലത്.

റവന്യൂ ദേവസ്വം വിഭജനംകൊണ്ടു യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവുമില്ല. അതും ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേകം പറയേണ്ടതാണ്. ഡിവിഷൻ കച്ചേരികളിലും താലൂക്കുകച്ചേരികളിലും നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അവ പണ്ടത്തെ മാതിരി സമ്പന്നമായിരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളത്. ഞാൻ സമ്പന്ന

വർഗ്ഗത്തെ വിഭേദിച്ചു പറയുന്നതല്ല. അവരും ഈ രാജ്യമാകുന്ന മഹാ ഭവനത്തിൽ തുല്യാവകാശമുള്ള സഹോദരന്മാർതന്നെ. ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം അവരെത്തന്നെ വയ്ക്കുന്നത് അവരുടെ തെറ്റല്ല മേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥരുടെ തെറ്റാണ്. റവന്യൂവകുപ്പിൽ ചെറു നിയമനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ ചെന്നു-ം ചേർന്നതന്നെ ഈ വകുപ്പിലെ എല്ലാ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും വഹിച്ചുവരുന്ന സവണ്ണസമുദായത്തിൽനിന്നുതന്നെ. സത്യവും നീതിയുമാകുന്ന മാനദണ്ഡങ്ങൾകൊണ്ട് അളക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ധർമ്മരാജ്യത്തെ ഈ നയം എത്രയോ അധർമ്മമാണെന്നു കാണാം. പ്രജകളിൽ ഏതെങ്കിലും ചില വകുപ്പുകളിൽനിന്നു സംഭരിക്കുന്ന മുതൽ കൊണ്ടല്ല പൊതു മുതൽ കൊണ്ടാണ് ഈ വകുപ്പിലും ശമ്പളം നൽകുന്നതെന്നു പ്രത്യേകം പറയേണ്ടതില്ലല്ലോ. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ എല്ലാ ഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും എല്ലാ വർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ട വകുപ്പാണിത്. അധികമുതലെടുപ്പും പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു കൃഷിക്കാരോട് അധിക ഇടപാടുമുള്ളതും ഈ വകുപ്പാണ്. രാജ്യകാര്യങ്ങളുടെ എല്ലായിട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതും ഈ വകുപ്പാണ്. എന്നെന്നാൽ നിയമസഭ, പ്രജാസഭ, മുതലായതിനു തിരിഞ്ഞെടുപ്പു സംബന്ധിച്ച നടപടികൾ നടത്തുന്നതും ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റു മുഖേനയാണ്. അതിനാൽ ഇവിടെ എല്ലാവർക്കും ശരിയായ വിധം പ്രവേശനമുണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ടതായാവാമെന്ന്. അതിലേയ്ക്കാണ് റവന്യൂ ഭവനവും വിഭജനം നടത്തിയതെന്നു ചിഫ് സിക്രട്ടറി അവർകൾ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): എന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞില്ല. അതു തെറ്റാണ്. പ്രധാനമായ ഉദ്ദേശം ഭവനപ്രവർത്തനം—

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ആകട്ടെ അധിഭാഷാധികാരം അർഹിക്കാത്തവർക്കും പ്രവേശനം നൽകണമെന്നുള്ളതും ഒരു ഉദ്ദേശമായിരുന്നുവല്ലോ. അത് ഇപ്പോൾ വിഫലമായിട്ടാണ് കാണുന്നത്. അതിനു റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണറെ കുറവും പറയാൻ പാടുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. നിയമനത്തിൽ ചെറു-ൽ ചെന്നു-ം സവണ്ണരാണ്. കമ്മീഷണർ അങ്ങനെ പക്ഷപാതബുദ്ധിയുള്ള ആളല്ല. ഇതു മിക്കവാറും പേഷ്വാരന്മാരുടേയും തഹസീൽദാർമാരുടേയും കുറെയെല്ലാം അധികം ഉപരിസ്ഥാനത്തിരിക്കുന്നവരുടേയും പ്രവൃത്തിയാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ നീതിക്കു തീരെ ശോജിച്ചതല്ല. രാജ്യത്തിലെ ധർമ്മത്തിനുതന്നെ ഹാനിപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന ഇത്തരം പ്രവൃത്തികളാൽ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിനു

[The Rev. Father Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.]

ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ധർമ്മരാജ്യമെന്നുള്ള സൽക്കീർത്തിക്കുതന്നെ ഭംഗം വന്നേക്കും. അത് എല്ലാ സ്വഭാവശീകരങ്ങൾക്കും വ്യസനകരമായ ഒന്നാണ്. ഈ പ്രധാന ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ ചില വർഗ്ഗക്കാർക്കു മാത്രമേ ഇനിയും പ്രവേശനം നൽകാവൂ എന്നു ഗവർണ്മെൻറു വച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത് പ്രത്യക്ഷമായ അനീതിയാണ് എന്നു മനുഷ്യവർഗ്ഗത്തെയും ധർമ്മത്തെയും സ്നേഹിക്കുന്ന ഏവർക്കും തരണം പറയാം. അധർമ്മത്തെ എല്ലാവരും വെറുക്കേണ്ടതാണല്ലോ. ഈ നയത്തെ ഉടനെ മാറ്റണം. അതിനനുസരിച്ചു ഒരു മാറ്റം ഈ പോഷ്കാരന്മാരെ ഇല്ലാതാക്കുന്നതാണ്. സവണ്ണതലശീൽദാരന്മാരിൽ ചിലർ ദേവസ്വം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ പോയി കുറെക്കൂടി ഉയർന്നതരത്തിൽ ഡിവിഷൻ അസിസ്റ്റൻറായി കുറച്ചുകാലം ഇരുന്നിട്ടു പോഷ്കാരന്മാരായി തീരും. അതു ശരിയല്ല. നീതയും സത്യവും ഒരു വർഗ്ഗക്കാരുടേയും പ്രത്യേക സ്വത്തല്ല. അതു പൊതുവുതന്നെയാണ്. അതിനെ എല്ലാവർക്കും പരിപാലിക്കുവാൻ ചുമതലയുണ്ട്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ പൊതു നന്മയെക്കരുതുന്നവർ അനീതി നിർത്തി. ഉത്തരവിരുവിതാകൂറിലുള്ളവർക്കും (laughter) എല്ലാവർക്കുമുള്ളിൽ പെട്ടവർക്കും എല്ലാ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലും പ്രത്യേകം ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലും ന്യായാനുസരണം പ്രവേശനം നൽകണം. ഇത്രയും പറഞ്ഞു കൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ പ്രമേയത്തെ ശക്തിയായി പിൻതാങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

The Council adjourned at 2-30 and re-assembled at 3-17 P. M.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Sir, I support the motion moved by Rev. Fr. Vettikkapalli. All the same I would request him that in view of the assurance given by the Chief Secretary he will be good enough to withdraw the motion.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 11 to 30.

The following motions were not moved :---

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

11. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 76,315 for Division Cutcheries by Rs. 10

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI :

12. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,091 under temporary establishment for the pay of an additional Assistant Tahsildar, clerks and peons for clearing arrears of puduval work in the Nedumangad taluk.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

13. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for improvement of markets by Rs. 10.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

14. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for land acquisition charges.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

15. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for land acquisition charges.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI :

16. To omit the allotment of Rs. 600 for fees to Vakils.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR :

17. To omit the allotment of Rs. 600 for fees to Vakils.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

18. To omit the allotment of Rs. 600 for fees to Vakils.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

19. To omit the allotment of Rs. 600 for fees to Vakils.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI :

20. To omit the allotment of Rs. 600 for fees to Vakils.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI :

21. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for purchase and repair of furniture by Rs. 1,000.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI :

22. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,22,040 for Taluk Cutcheries by Rs. 100.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI :

23. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,22,040 for Taluk Cutcheries by Rs. 10.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

24. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,22,040 for Taluk Cutcheries by Rs. 10.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

25. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for travelling allowances by Rs. 1,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

26. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for travelling allowances by Rs. 1,000.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI :

27. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for travelling allowances by Rs. 1,000.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI :

28. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,92,800 for Proverthi Cutcheries by Rs. 10.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI :

29. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 600 for travelling allowances by Rs. 200.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR :

30. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,880 for Office Assistant etc., by Rs. 1,500.

Motion 31.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (Neyyattinkara): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

31. To omit the allotment of Rs. 27,751 for Assistant Tahsildars and peons.

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

Sir, this subject has been engaging the attention of this House from year to year. The subject is one about which there has been considerable trial of strength between the Government and the non-officials during the past two years. Sir, I beg to point out that many of us on this side of the House are not convinced of the necessity of continuing this temporary scheme for another year as well.

The Assistant Tahsildars were originally intended for disposal of *pokkuvaravu* cases, for detection of encroachment on *porambokes* and for bringing up-to-date the B register, and also for *puduval* subdivision work below ten acres of land. Subsequently, the Assistant Tahsildars were removed from the taluk establishment and were placed under the Land Records Superintendent. With that, the bringing of the B register up-to-date has not been attended to by the Assistant Tahsildars. The disposal of *pokkuvaravu* cases has been now taken away from them as per Government proceedings passed in Makaram 1099. So, then, the main function that appertains to this class of officers now is the detection of encroachments and survey of *porambokes*. This special staff has been attending to this work for the last two years, and it has been stated that they have been able to dispose of a considerable portion of the arrears that accumulated while the old system was in force. Thus then, *prima facie*, it would appear that it should be possible for the normal *pakuthi* staff, namely, the land revenue staff, to attend to this work which legitimately appertains to them. Of course, it need not be repeated that originally, when the Assistant Tahsildars were appointed, the Tahsildar had to attend to the Devaswom and magisterial functions as well. Whenever it was stated from this side of the House that the Tahsildars of to-day are not so heavily worked as they were when they had Devaswom and magisterial functions as well, it has been stated rather vaguely that they are still heavily worked and that they still continue to be officers with multifarious duties. As for that matter they will ever continue to be so and that can never be a justification for their not being engaged in what may be regarded as their legitimate work, *viz.*, land records maintenance. We do not complain of the land records maintenance work as such. But we do complain of the separate agency and the additional expenditure that has to be incurred on account of the employment of this additional agency.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask the member whether he is aware of the revenue that is derived on account of the appointment of the staff? And is he aware of the portion of the revenue derived from the land records maintenance work?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Unfortunately that is a question which I want to ask him when he stands up to oppose my motion. I shall certainly avail myself of the opportunity then. From the figures that have been supplied to us we have not been

able to ascertain the revenue that has been derived as a result of the actual work of the special staff employed for land records maintenance. No separate figures are available and we shall be very glad if the Land Revenue Commissioner will supply the figures in time.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): In case Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai is under the impression that the department is costing extra money to Government I think it will be better to let him know—

PRESIDENT: You may give the figures in your reply.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, to make myself clear to the Land Revenue Commissioner, I might at once state that the expenditure that is incurred after the special agency was created must necessarily be higher than what it used to be prior to the establishment of this special staff which must necessarily have been lower than what it is now. The original land records maintenance work was done by the regular *pakuthi* staff aided by the taluk surveyors, who are now no more attached to the land revenue section of the department. The taluk surveyors who were assisting the Tahsildars in the performance of the taluk work were paid only Rs. 25-40, while the Assistant Tahsildars who are appointed as the executive assistants of the Tahsildars are paid Rs. 75-100. The cost must necessarily be much higher than it used to be. The mere transfer of a few taluk surveyors from the Land Revenue Department to the Survey Department cannot have the effect of decreasing the expenditure on that account. It has been suggested from year to year that this work of detection of *porambokes* is being done not only in the interests of revenue but also in the interests of the people. I do concede that a proper conservation of the *porambokes* is absolutely necessary and that the work has to be done in a satisfactory manner. The only question is whether this additional agency has been performing their duty in accordance with law and whether the work that has been done already is such as would justify an additional expenditure. Sir, I might bring to your notice the fact that Rule 35 framed under Section 14 of the Survey and Boundaries Regulation which deals with the land records maintenance work, namely, the maintenance, repairs and renewing of survey stones, is to this effect: "The *porambokes* which have been created as additional revenue numbers or survey fields should be demarcated strictly in accordance with the measurements recorded in the original survey." So far, it is all correct. However the rule adds that when such *porambokes* become broader such *porambokes* should be demarcated and measured as per the existing limits. Now, Sir, it needs no argument from me to show that such preparation of the sketches of field measurements will certainly be prejudicial to the people. For, it is not to be done in accordance with the original survey measurements when, owing to the negligence or otherwise of the adjoining registry-holders, they allow a part of their ground adjoining a *poramboke*—

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I correct Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai? That rule has since been altered.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know when that rule was altered?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Last month or so.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Last month! This rule which has been in force for the last three years seems to have been *now* altered, evidently for good reasons. I presume that the Government were satisfied that this rule which was being acted upon by the Assistant Tahsildars was contrary to law and was opposed even to public policy. Now then, the work which these Assistant Tahsildars have been doing till now under these rules must be all a costly waste. One of their primary duties was the survey of the *porambokes* and the preparation of field sketches and the transmission of these sketches of *porambokes* to the regular taluk offices for taking action. These sketches which have been prepared, presumably, under Rule 35 must necessarily be treated as waste paper, for they have been doing something which they were not, under law, authorised to do, and which has encroached upon the private rights of citizens. For the performance of such duties we have been voting year after year to the extent of about Rs. 27,000. I am really glad to know that the rule has been altered. But that does not make any alteration in my position. For it is only hereafter that the real work of the Assistant Tahsildars has to begin. The work done up till now is absolute waste. At least hereafter let us hope that the land records maintenance work will be carried out in accordance with law and by the proper agency. Sir, complaints have come to my notice from several persons that renewals of stones and repairs of survey marks have been insisted upon without due notification being given as required by law under Regulation X of 1094. A notification has to be issued under the Regulation and the objection of the parties has to be heard, and then if they fail to plant these stones, then alone can Government plant these stones and even then an account has to be sent to the parties stating the cost incurred by the Government.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask whether similar omissions and irregularities might not accrue even if the work is done by the normal staff?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): That is not an answer to the argument that I have been advancing. That only adds to the force of my argument. I say that in spite of the additional staff there are numerous complaints that they have not understood the rules and do not act in accordance with law. At any rate we find that the result of their work has been the creation of complaints.

from the people that they are being taken unawares by the issue of demand notices for the recovery of the value of the stones planted.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I ask, will these complaints disappear by abolishing the Assistant Tahsildars and by reverting to the normal staff?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): At any rate such complaints will not be as numerous as they are at present, if the Tahsildars concerned, the responsible revenue officers of the locality, have got some responsibility in regard to land records maintenance. As it is, the Tahsildar is entirely divorced from the sphere of activity relating to land records work.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): In olden days, when the Tahsildars had been doing the work, did not the work get into fearful arrears?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I should consider it very unfortunate that Government did not do what was proper and see that these Tahsildars did not commit any dereliction of duty. Here is one of the important duties appertaining to the Land Revenue Department and it would appear that the Tahsildars in olden days, for justifiable reasons, as stated by Government, were unable to get on with their duties, thereby allowing arrears to accumulate. I am not here to advocate the cause of the Tahsildars of old, but I am here to attack both the Tahsildars and the present land record authorities for their great remissness of duty and for the hardships caused by them to the poor land-holders of the country. Now, Sir, my point is that if, as a matter of fact, the Tahsildars had been put in direct charge of such work and the Dewan Peishkars—who are now relieved considerably of Devaswom work and even of some of their magisterial duties owing to the provision for Division Assistants who are now doing most of the magisterial work—had control and responsibility for the land records work, I should consider that it would have been possible for the Dewan Peishkar and the Tahsildar to devote greater personal attention to the land records maintenance work and thereby alleviate the sufferings of the people. As it is, there is only the Land Records Superintendent to hear complaints. The people have to look up to him as the final authority in the matter. He is independent even of the Dewan Peishkars who are district officers and who are responsible for the revenue collection. Such irregularities, as I already mentioned, I should certainly consider will not exist in case the regular normal *pakuthi* staff is put in charge of the work. In spite of these isolated species of officers having no responsibility either to the division officers or even to the Land Revenue Commissioner, these irregularities have wrought very serious harm to the land-holders of the country. It cannot be stated with any sense of fairness that the work of these Assistant Tahsildars has throughout been in favour of the people. It has certainly not been in the interests of the people and so I should consider it desirable that we do not perpetuate this particular establishment any further.

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai whether he is aware that the Tahsildar has not been completely divested of the work? The Assistant Tahsildar has to make references to the Tahsildars—

PRESIDENT: Do you explain or are you putting a question?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I am asking him whether he is aware that the Assistant Tahsildar has to make reports to the Tahsildar and that the Tahsildar has to give his opinion in the matter.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The answer is simple. It is not open to the Tahsildar to say in regard to a particular case: "This is not an encroachment." The Assistant Tahsildar prepares a sketch. It is not open to the Tahsildar to say: "This sketch is wrong," because the Assistant Tahsildar is an expert under the Land Records Superintendent. The Tahsildar has only to refer to the Land Records Superintendent and cannot say anything himself. The Tahsildar is not allowed to use his own discretion in the matter. He has only to act upon the sketch presented before him by the Assistant Tahsildar. I should like, certainly, to be informed whether there have been cases in which the Tahsildar has set aside the recommendation of the Assistant Tahsildar, and, if so, how many cases there are in which the Tahsildar has chosen to set aside the sketches prepared by the Assistant Tahsildar and refused to act thereupon.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): On the other hand I would ask him whether he can quote any instance where it has been shown that the report of the Assistant Tahsildars has been proved to be wrong.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I will only quote the very many appeal cases pending before the Division Cutcherry at Trivandrum as to the erroneous sketches prepared by the Assistant Tahsildars and accepted as correct by the Tahsildar. I refer to the series of *poramboke* cases taken by the side of the Neyyar river in contravention of the Government Proceedings. I was myself about to refer to that fact. Under the old demarcation rules it would appear that the survey officers were allowed to plant the survey stones about six feet in the interior of the registered holdings on the side of rivers and channels. It seems that these survey stones have now been found out and that the six feet of ground have been taken to be *porambokes* and a series of cases taken up. People who have planted trees on their registered holdings under the impression that the land forms part of their registered holdings, about which there has been absolutely no dispute for the last 100 years and more, have been proceeded against and fines have been imposed under the Land Conservancy Regulation. A series of cases were taken up during the days of Sir P. Rajagopalachariar and then

it was that Government passed the proceedings saying that in all such cases they should be registered in favour of the adjoining land-holder free even of *taravila* and *pottas* granted. More than 150 cases have come to my notice and in all these cases the Tahsildar has been basing his decision on the sketches prepared by the Assistant Tahsildars. All these cases are only pending disposal before the Dewan Peishkar.

PRESIDENT: I think I have seen some of them. The question is somewhat different. I will explain later.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Again, under the Survey and Boundaries Regulation, I take this opportunity to point out, before the demand notices are issued to persons for the recovery of the charges on account of planting stones, the officer should survey the property and an account of the charges and expenditure incurred on account of the planting of stones has to be communicated *forthwith* to the parties. I understand that no such statement of account is being furnished to the parties before the issue of demand notices. There are several other complaints of that nature which have come to my notice. Therefore the income that Government receive under land records is practically unauthorised imposition upon the people and it should certainly influence this House in arriving at a conclusion that the land records work is not a gain either to the Government or to the people. I should therefore strongly recommend that this provision be omitted.

One more reason that I have to mention in particular is that it has to be remembered while discussing the budget that all possible occasions should be availed of to see that unnecessary expenditure, expenditure which could at least afford to be postponed for some time, is not incurred during the next year.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Is it not desirable to keep on departments which show a big gain to Government?

MR. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachi*): Louder, please.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Is it not desirable to keep on departments which are showing a big gain to the revenue of Government?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I do agree with him that if gain accrues to Government without sacrificing the permanent interests of the people, then such institutions or departments might continue for any length of time. But this agency is engaged in illegal exactions from the people. As it is, my case is that this agency is itself temporary. The President of this Council, when this question was discussed in this Council the year before the last, said, before the motion was put to the vote:-

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjittomman.]

"It is very difficult to fix the period, but I may give this assurance that Government will not retain these officers for one moment longer than they are really necessary. I am sorry I cannot give a more definite assurance. It is a matter that requires looking into. It is very probable that we may not require them for more than two years, but I do not think it is fair to ask Government to commit themselves to such a statement."

So, then, originally the idea does not appear to have been to make them a permanent addition to the regular staff. It was practically a temporary scheme which was being submitted to the vote of this Council from year to year and which has been brought to this Council now also. Now it is for the Council to say whether, in view of the enormous expenditure that this Council will have to incur on account of relief measures to be taken in connection with the floods, they will be justified in voting for a sum which can well afford to be dropped or at least to wait for some time. So, my request to the House is that we should conserve whatever is possible, by all reasonable means, for more useful purposes, at least for the next year. That this temporary scheme can well afford to wait is my considered opinion.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഞാൻ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാർമാരെ കറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

ഇപ്പോൾ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാർമാർ ആറകളുടേയും തോടുകളുടേയും അരുകിലുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ പുറമ്പോക്കു കേസുകളായി എടുത്തു കൃഷിക്കാരെ പാടേ ശിക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനു ശ്രമിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ്. കറച്ചുകാലം ഇങ്ങനെ നടക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ കൃഷിക്കാരിൽ ശിക്ഷ അനുഭവിക്കാത്തവരായി അധികം പേർ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കയില്ല. ഒരു സെന്ററാലുകാൽ സെന്ററാ സ്ഥലം പ്രവേശനം കണ്ടാൽ മതി; പുറമ്പോക്കായിട്ടു കേസെടുത്തു ശിക്ഷിപ്പിക്കും. അതുകൾ മിക്കതും പണ്ടത്തെ ആയക്കട്കിൽ കൊണ്ടിട്ടുള്ളതായിരിക്കും. ഇപ്പോൾ അതെല്ലാം പുറമ്പോക്കായി. പ്ലാനിൽ സർവ്വേയർമാർ കൊള്ളിച്ചു കാണുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു കേസെടുക്കുവാൻ കഴിയും. ഇക്കാര്യത്തിലാണ് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാർമാർ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. അധികം ആറുതീരങ്ങളിലാണ് പുറമ്പോക്കു കേസുണ്ടാകുന്നത്. ഇപ്പോൾ വെള്ളം പൊങ്ങിയിരിക്കുകയാണ്. വെള്ളം ഇറങ്ങിയ ഉടനെ കൃഷിക്കാരെ അവർ ഉപദ്രവിച്ചു തുടങ്ങും. കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ മേൽ കേസുകൾ വളരെ എടുത്താലും അതിൽ വിലതെല്ലാം തമ്മിൽ വേണ്ടവിധം പറഞ്ഞുതീർക്കും. അതിൽ ശിക്ഷ കൂടാത്ത നഷ്ടമെന്തുള്ളൂ. ഓരോ താലൂക്കിലും ഒട്ടേറെ കേസുകൾ പ്രതിവത്സരം ശിക്ഷിക്കപ്പെടുന്നതിനാൽ കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു ദുസ്സഹദുഃഖം ഉണ്ടാ

കുന്നു. പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ആവശ്യമായ തോട്ട്, കുളം വഴി മുതലായ സാക്ഷാൽ പുറമ്പോക്കുകൾ ആരെങ്കിലും ആക്രമിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾ ഫർജിമുഖേനയും മറ്റും താമശീൽദാരരെ അറിയിക്കും. അപ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹം ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും ഒഴിപ്പിക്കുകയും വേണ്ടിവന്നാൽ ശിക്ഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യാൻ താല്പര്യം പണ്ടെയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ മതി, പക്ഷെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു തന്നെ പ്രാരംഭനടപടി നടത്താൻ സാധിക്കും. ഇതിലേക്കു ഒരു പ്രത്യേകം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ വെച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നാൽ അയാൾ എപ്പോഴും കേസുണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സർവ്വ പരിചയവുമില്ല; മേൽനോട്ടത്തിന് ആളുമില്ല; ഉപദ്രവം സഹിക്കുകയേയുള്ളൂ. ഇതു പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും ക്ഷാമകാലത്തിൽ വലിയ അധർമ്മമായ ഒരു കൃത്യമായി ഗണിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ ദുഃഖം കണ്ടിട്ടു പറയുന്നതാണ് ഞാൻ. അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് താമശീൽദാരന്മാരെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ഭോഷമൊന്നും വരാനില്ല, ഗുണമേയുള്ള.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): L. R. M. ജോലിയുടെ ഉദ്ദേശത്തേയും അതിനാൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഗവർണ്ണ്മെന്റിനും ഉണ്ടാകേണ്ട ഗുണത്തേയും മറന്നിട്ടുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികളാൽ ഈ ജോലിയെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ വെറുക്കുന്നതിനു ഇടയായിത്തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. L. R. M. ജോലി കഴിയുംവേഗം നിന്നുപോകണമെന്നുള്ള വിചാരം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ഓരോ നിമിഷവും വലിച്ചുവരികയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. L. R. M. ജോലിയോടും അതു ചെയ്യുന്നവരോടും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വെറുപ്പു തോന്നുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി മി: രാമസുബ്ബയ്യർ ഇങ്ങനെ സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"The work done by the land records staff is bound to be unpopular because no one likes to be told that the compound wall of his house has encroached on road limits and that it should be put back or that the coconut plantation he has raised on a water course has to be removed; but this detection of encroachments and the removal of the really objectionable encroachments are the main items of work for which the Assistant Tahsildars have been appointed. The Assistant Tahsildars as a class and their accountants cannot, therefore, in the nature of things, be popular if they do their duties conscientiously and fearlessly due to this circumstance."

L. R. M. ജോലിയോടും അതു നടത്തിവരുന്നവരോടും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വെറുപ്പുതോന്നുന്നതിനു കാരണമായ സംഗതികളെ ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമൂലം തെളിയിക്കാം. എന്റെ താമസം കോതൻപുരപക്ഷതിയിലാണ്. അവിടെ അടുത്ത കാലങ്ങളിൽതന്നെ പല പുറമ്പോക്കുകേസുകളും എടുത്തു ശിക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ശിക്ഷപ്പെട്ട കക്ഷികളിൽ പലരും എന്റെ സമീപവാസികളാണ്. ശിക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കേസുകളുടെ സ്വഭാവത്തെയും അതി

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

ലേക്കുള്ള ശിക്ഷകളേയും പറ്റി അവർ എന്നാട്ടു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിനു പുറമേ ആ തീച്ചു നോട്ടീസുകളും ഞാൻ കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. അങ്ങനെ സമ്പാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അറിവിൽനിന്നും തയ്യാറാക്കിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെൻറാണ് ചുവടെ വായിക്കാനുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നത്.

കോതനല്ലൂർപകുതിയിൽ വള്ളിയാർ സംബന്ധിച്ചു കിട്ടപ്പുള്ള നിലങ്ങളിൽ പുറമ്പോക്കു കേസുകൾ എടുത്ത് ശിക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വിവരം.

നമ്പർ	സർവ്വേ നമ്പർ	കക്ഷിയുടെ പേര്	ആകൃമണം സെൻറർ	പിഴ ഇരട്ടാക്കി ട്ടുള്ള രൂ.	നിരോധന കരം			കുടിശ്ശിക കരം			ആക്ഷേപം		
					രൂ.	പ.	കാ	രൂ.	പ.	കാ	രൂ.	പ.	കാ
1	4388	ലക്ഷ്മിപ്പിള്ള	1	1	1	16	1	7	24	5	10	12	6
2	4388	ഗോപാലപിള്ള	1	1	1	16	1	7	24	5	10	12	6
3	4673	ഗോപതിപ്പിള്ള	3	1	1	16	1	7	24	5	12	12	6
4	4673	ശിവതാണുപിള്ള	2	1	1	16	1	4	20	3	8	8	4
5	4673	നീലമപ്പിള്ള	1	2	4	10	10	23	2	13	27	12	
6	4673	കുമാരൻകേശവൻ	1	2	4	10	10	23	2	13	13	12	
7	4673	മാട്ടനാരായണൻ	1	1	1	16	1	7	24	5	10	12	6
8	4673	ഇരവികുമാരൻ	3	6	2	26	8	11	22	...	21	2	8
9	4673	അമ്മാള	621	...	1	17	15	8	2	9	9	20	8
10	4782	മല്ലൻവേലായുധൻ	1000	4	2	1	16	1	7	24	5	11	12
11	4796	നീലമപ്പിള്ള	2	4	2	4	10	10	23	2	16	27	12
12	4800	ടിയാറ	1	4	2	4	10	10	23	2	16	27	12
13	4800	ദേവദാസൻ	1	...	2	4	10	10	23	2	12	27	12
14	4800	അരുനായകം	1 1/2	3	1	16	1	7	24	5	12	12	6
15	4831	ഏഴുദാസൻ	3	5	4	3	10	16	14	8	25	18	2
16	4831	യോവേൽസുന്ദരി	5	8	6	3	14	30	19	6	44	23	4
17	5030	ശാമിനാഥൻ	3 3/4	2	1	16	1	7	24	5	11	12	6
18	5030	ഭഗവതപ്പിള്ള	1 1/2	3	1	16	1	7	24	5	12	12	6
19	4667	പിള്ളനമുട്ടമൻ	2 1/4	4	2	26	8	14	20	8	21	19	...
20	4384	രാമൻപിള്ള	2 3/4	5	2	26	8	11	22	...	19	20	8

മേൽ വിവരിച്ച സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെൻറിൻപ്രകാരം ൩൦ സെൻറിൽപരം സ്ഥലം പുറമ്പോക്കു കേസ്സു എടുത്ത് ശിക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനു പ്രായശ്ചിത്തം, നിരോധനകരം, കുടിശ്ശിക കരം ഇവയിൽ ൩൧൭ രൂപാവരണം അതായതു സെൻറിനു ൧൦ ന്നി രൂപായിൽപരം വരുന്നു. ഇതെ തോതിൽ കോതനല്ലൂർപകുതിയിൽ ഏകകാലത്തു ൮൦-ൽ പരം കേസുകൾ

തീരുമാനിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അറിവ്. ഇത്രയും കേസുകളിലായി രണ്ട് ഏക്കറോളം സ്ഥലം ഉൾപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുമെന്നും അതിലേക്കു പ്രായശ്ചിത്തം, നിരോധനകരം, കുടിശികകരം ഈ ഇനങ്ങളിൽ ൧൫൦൦ രൂപാ ഈടായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നത്. മേൽവിവരിച്ച കേസുകളിലുള്ള പലേ കക്ഷികളും എന്റെ സമീപവാസികളാണ്. താലൂക്കിൽ ഈ വക പണം കെട്ടിവയ്ക്കുന്നതിന് അവർ അനുഭവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കഷ്ടം എനിക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. കടം വാങ്ങിയും കന്നുകാലികളെവിറ്റും, ആഭരണങ്ങളെ പണയംവെച്ചുമാണ് പണം കെട്ടിവെച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. സർക്കാർവക ഭൂമികളിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവരെ ശിക്ഷിച്ചാൽ അവർ കഷ്ടനഷ്ടങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിക്കേണ്ടതുതന്നെ എന്നു സമാധാനപ്പെടാം. മേൽവിവരിച്ച കേസുകളിൽ പണം കെട്ടിവെച്ചതിൽ പിന്നീടു വസ്തു ഒഴിപ്പിക്കാൻ സ്ഥലത്തു പോയപ്പോൾ പലതിലും ആക്രമണം ഇല്ലെന്നു കാണാൻ ഇടയായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിന്റെ പരമാർത്ഥം തന്റെ ഉദ്യോഗ സംബന്ധമായ ചുമതലകളെ കൃത്യബോധത്തോടുകൂടി നിർവ്വഹിച്ചുപോരുന്ന ഏത് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്റെ പരിശോധനയിലും ബോധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. മേൽ വിവരിച്ച പട്ടികയിലുൾപ്പെട്ട സർവ്വേ രേഖകൾ എ.ൽ. എടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള പുറമ്പോക്കിനെപ്പറ്റി വിശേഷമായി വേറെയൊരു കഥ കൂടി പറയേണ്ടതായുണ്ട്. സർവ്വേ രേഖകൾ എ. നിലവും ബി. ലാറർ അതിന്റെ കരയുമാണ്. ഈ വസ്തുക്കൾ രണ്ടും ഒരാളുടെ വകയാണ്. ബി. ലാററിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട് സെൻറർ സ്ഥലത്തുനിന്നും ഏഴ് സെൻറർ സ്ഥലത്തെ അതിന്റെ ഉടമസ്ഥൻ അയാളുടെ നിലത്തോടു ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ളതിനാണ് അയാളുടെ മേൽ പുറമ്പോക്കു കേസെടുത്ത്. ൧൯൫൦ പാ ൨൦ ചക്രം വ്യാകാശം ശിക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. വസ്തു ഒഴിപ്പിക്കാനായി അധികൃതന്മാർ സ്ഥലത്തുപോയപ്പോൾ, വസ്തു ഒഴിപ്പിക്കാൻ ഇല്ലായിരുന്ന എന്നു മാത്രമല്ല കക്ഷിക്ക് അയാളുടെ വക സ്വർണ്ണ സെൻറർ സ്ഥലം തിരിയെ വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടാണ് വന്നിട്ടുള്ളത്!

സങ്കടകക്ഷികൾക്കു ദിവാൻപേഷ്കാരുടെ അടുക്കൽ അപ്പീലും ദിവാൻജി അവർകളുടെ അടുക്കൽ പരിശോധന അപ്പീലും ഉണ്ടെന്നു മറുഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും സമാധാനം പറയുമായിരിക്കാം. കാൽ സെൻറിനും, അര സെൻറിനും ആക്രമണകേസുകളെടുത്ത കക്ഷികൾ കെട്ടിവെച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പണത്തെ തിരിയെ വാങ്ങി സംകടനിലുത്തയില്ലെന്നുള്ള അപ്പീൽ വ്യവഹാരങ്ങളിൽ ആ സാധുക്കൾ അതിലിരട്ടിയൊ മുന്നിരട്ടിയൊ പണം ചിലവാക്കേണ്ടിവരുമെന്നുള്ള പരമാർത്ഥം ആർക്കും മറച്ചുവയ്ക്കാവുന്നതല്ല.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

മേൽ വിവരിച്ച കേസുകൾ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് താമശീൽദാരുമാരുടെ മേലധികാരിയായ താമശീൽദാർ ചുമതല വഹിച്ചു തീർച്ചപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട്. ഇതുകൊണ്ട് L. R. M. ജോലികളെ പകുതി ജീവനക്കാരെയും, താലൂക്കു സബ്ഡൈറക്ടറേയും ഏറ്റെടുക്കുന്നതിൽ ഉണ്ടെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നതായ അപകടം ആവക ജോലിയുടെ ചുമതലക്കാരനായ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് താമശീൽദാർ നടത്തുന്നതായാലും കൂടുതൽ ചുമതലക്കാരനായ താമശീൽദാർ തന്നെ നടത്തുന്നതായാലും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുമെന്നു മേൽ വിവരിച്ച ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങളാൽ ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്.

പുറമ്പോക്കില്ലാത്ത സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പുറമ്പോക്കുകളെ സൃഷ്ടിച്ചു കേസുകൾ ഏറ്റെടുക്കുന്നതിനും, അതിലേക്ക് അനുചിതമായ കരം, നിരോധനകരം, കടിശ്ശികരം, ഇവ ഈടാക്കുന്നതിനും പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചുവരുന്നതായ സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു. ലാൻഡ് റെവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിന്റെ ഫോറം വെൽ വാഷിംഗ് ടൗണിൽ പരിശോധിച്ചു ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ഗവണ്മെന്റ് പ്രൊസീഡിംഗ്സിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"In the course of this work the Land Records staff detected 19,246 encroachments involving an area of 1,630 acres, against 20,324 encroachments involving an area of 1,680 acres in 1907. Besides the 19,246 encroachment cases detected during the year, 13,625 cases were pending at the close of the year 1907, making a total of 32,871 cases. Of these 32,871 cases, 15,982 were disposed of by the Tahsildars during the year leaving a balance of 16,889 cases. The arrears are particularly in the Agastisvaram, Chirayinkil, Shencottah, Ambalapuzha and Parur taluks. The Tahsildars of these taluks should put forth strenuous efforts and see that the pending cases are disposed of promptly. It is stated that the disposal of encroachments detected, and *pudural* lands surveyed by the Land Records staff brought in a revenue of Rs. 3,28,802 against Rs. 1,33,179 in 1907."

മേൽ വിവരിച്ച ഭാഗംകൊണ്ട് L. R. M. ജോലികൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് അധികാരപ്പെട്ട എല്ലാ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം പുറമ്പോക്കു കേസുകളുടെ എണ്ണത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കയും, അതിൽനിന്നും നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം പണമുണ്ടാക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുമെന്നു കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ അവർക്ക് ഉദ്യോഗസംബന്ധമായ കയറ്റക്കുറവുകൾ സഹായമായി തീരുമെന്ന് അവർ വിശ്വസിച്ചുപോരുന്നു.

L. R. M. ജോലിയോടും അതു ചെയ്യുന്നവരോടും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു നീരസവും വെറുപ്പും തോന്നുന്നതിനു പ്രധാന കാരണം ഇന്നു സെറ്റിൽമെന്റ് രജിസ്റ്ററൽ കാണുന്ന പുറമ്പോക്കുകളെല്ലാം സാക്ഷാൽ പുറമ്പോക്കുകളാണെന്നുള്ള സംകല്പത്തോടുകൂടി നടപടികൾ നടത്തി

പോരുന്നതാണ്. ഇന്നത്തെ സെററിൽമെൻറ രജിസ്റ്ററുകളിൽ കാണുന്ന പുറമ്പോക്കുകൾ മൂന്നു വഴികളായി വന്നിട്ടുള്ളവയാണ്.

(എ) മുഖേതന്നെ സർക്കാർവകയായി കിടന്നിട്ടുള്ള പുറമ്പോക്കുകൾ.

(ബി) കഴിഞ്ഞ സർവ്വേയിലും സെററിൽമെൻറിലും പിശകായി വന്നുപോയിട്ടുള്ള പുറമ്പോക്കുകൾ.

(സി) കണ്ടെടുത്തവയ്ക്ക് ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ഡിമാക്കേഷൻ റൂൾസുപ്രകാരം ൧൦-൧൨ വകുപ്പിന്റെ ൩-൧൨ വ്യവസ്ഥയിലും, ൧൧-൧൨ വകുപ്പിലും ആറ്, തേറ്റ് മുതലായതുകളുടെ കരകളിൽ പതിഞ്ഞും പതിയാതെയും ഉള്ള ഭേദഗതികളെ അതാതുകളോടു ചേർത്ത് പുറമ്പോക്കുകളായി എടുത്തുകൊള്ളണമെന്നുള്ള വ്യവസ്ഥയാൽ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള പുറമ്പോക്കുകൾ.

ഇതിൽ ൧-൧൨യായിപറഞ്ഞ സർക്കാർവക പുറമ്പോക്കുകളിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവരെ ഒഴിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിലോ, അവരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിലോ, നിരോധനകരം കെട്ടിവയ്ക്കുന്നതിലോ ആക്കത്തന്നെ ന്യായമായ സംകടത്തിന് അവകാശമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

൨-൧൨ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള കണ്ടെടുത്ത നടപടി പിശകുകളാൽ വന്നുപോയിട്ടുള്ള പുറമ്പോക്കുകളുടെ നടപടികൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സംകടത്തെയുണ്ടാക്കാതെ തരമില്ല. ഒരു ചുവരിൽ പതിവു വസ്തുവിൽ മുമ്പു സർവ്വേ ചെയ്യുന്ന കാലത്ത് ഏതാനും ഭാഗം വിട്ടുപോയതും ആ ഉടമസ്ഥൻ ഉത്തമവിശ്വാസത്തോടുകൂടി നാളത്തുവരെ അനുഭവിച്ചുവരുന്നതുമായ വസ്തുവിൽ സർവ്വേചെയ്യുന്ന കാലത്തു വരുത്തിട്ടുള്ള പിശകിനെ സൗകര്യമായി ഗണിച്ചു പുറമ്പോക്കു കേസെടുക്കയും ശിക്ഷിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ന്യായമായ സംകടത്തിനു അവകാശമുള്ളതാണ്.

൩-൧൨ പറഞ്ഞമാതിരിയുള്ള പുറമ്പോക്കു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ഉണ്ടാക്കിട്ടുള്ള റൂൾസിൻപ്രകാരം മനഃപൂർവ്വം വരുത്തിട്ടുള്ള പുറമ്പോക്കുകളാണ്. ഇതിന്റെ അന്തഃചിത്രത്തെ അന്നത്തെ കണ്ടെടുത്ത ദിവാൻപേഷ്കാരായിരുന്ന മിസ്റ്റർ ശങ്കരസുബ്ബയ്യർ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ച് ൧൦ നൂറു-൧൦൦൦ ചങ്ങമാസം ൨൪-൦൦-൩൪-൦൦ നമ്പരായി ഫക്ട് എഴുതി അയക്കയും, അന്നത്തെ ദിവാൻജിയായിരുന്ന രാമറാവു അവർകൾ ൧൦ നൂറു-൧൦൦൦ മകരമാസം ൨൪-൦൪-൧൧-൦൦ നമ്പരായി അതിനെപ്പറ്റി തീരുമാനിക്കയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ ഭാഗം ഇങ്ങനെയാണ്.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

“രൂംസു അനുസരിച്ചു പേരിൽ പതിഞ്ഞ വസ്തു പുറമ്പോക്കായി കൊള്ളിക്കണമെന്നവരികിൽ സ്കാർ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കു പൊന്നും വിലയും കൊടുത്ത് ഒഴിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ക്രമംപോലെ ഒഴിപ്പിച്ചല്ലാത്ത പുറമ്പോക്കായി കൊള്ളിക്കാൻ പാടുള്ളതല്ല. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള വസ്തു പുറമ്പോക്കായി പട്ടയംകൊടുത്തിരുന്നാലും, ആ പട്ടയങ്ങൾ തിരിയെ വയ്യിച്ചു പേരിൽ പതിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന ക്രമത്തിന് തന്നെ പട്ടയംകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. പേരിൽ പതിഞ്ഞ വസ്തുക്കൾ രൂംസിനാൽ അപകാശം ഒഴിഞ്ഞു പുറമ്പോക്കിൽ ചേരുമെന്നു വിവരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിലേക്കു രൂംസിൽ ആ ഭാഗം പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിന്നു റദ്ദ് ചെയ്ത് അതിലേക്കു വേറെയൊരു രൂംസ് ഉണ്ടാക്കി അതു ഗസറ്റിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ മതിയാകുമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു.”

കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു ഏറ്റവും രക്ഷയായിട്ടുള്ള ഈ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഉത്തരവു നടപ്പിൽ വരാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ മുമ്പു പേരിൽ പതിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള വസ്തുക്കളെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു മനഃപൂർവ്വം പുറമ്പോക്കാക്കിത്തീർത്തിട്ടുള്ളതും ആ വിവരം പലക്കും അറിയാൻപാടില്ലാത്ത അനുഭവിച്ചുവരുന്നതുമായ അവരുടെ വസ്തുക്കളിൽ പുറമ്പോക്കു കേസുകൾ എടുക്കുന്നതും, പ്രവേശത്തിന് അവരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കുന്നതും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വലുതായ മനോവേദനയുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതാണ്.

ഇപ്പോൾ നടപ്പിലാക്കുന്ന പുറമ്പോക്കു രൂംസിനെ നടപടികളിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുമ്പോൾ മേൽ വിവരിച്ച സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി യാതൊന്നും ആലോചിക്കാതെയും അതിലേക്കു കക്ഷികൾ തരുന്ന തെളിവുകളെ വേണ്ടപോലെ ഗണിക്കാതെയും ചെയ്തു വരുന്ന പുറമ്പോക്കു തീർച്ചകളാൽ ജനങ്ങൾ വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം കഷ്ടനഷ്ടങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ തുടന്നുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നാൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അതിനെ താങ്ങാൻ ശക്തിയുണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതല്ല. അതിനാൽ പുറമ്പോക്കു ഇനത്തിലെ വരവിൽ അത്യാഗ്രഹപ്പെടാതേയും, ജനരക്ഷയെ മുൻനിർത്തിയും, അതു സംബന്ധമായുണ്ടാക്കിട്ടുള്ള നിയമത്തെ സംഗതികളുടെ സ്ഥിതിപോലെ ഭാഷിണ്യത്തോടുകൂടി ഉപയോഗിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് അധികൃതന്മാർക്കു മനോഹൃദയമായി വരുന്നകാലംവരെ ജനരക്ഷയ്ക്കു വേണ്ടി L. R. M. ജോലികൾ നിർത്തി വയ്ക്കുന്നത് നന്നായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് എനിക്ക് അഭിപ്രായമുള്ളത്. മേൽവിവരിച്ച കാരണങ്ങളാൽ

അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരെ പുലർത്തിവെച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതിനു ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കാണുന്നതുക ഒരിക്കലും അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നതാണ് ശക്തിയോടുകൂടി വാദിക്കുന്നു.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Sir, in spite of the repeated requests made from this House *re.* the abolition of Assistant Tahsildars, Government seem to be persistent in keeping on this costly but inefficient establishment. There is hardly any public organ in the State which has not dwelt upon the suffering and losses the ryots have to undergo at the hands of these inexperienced officers. Time there was, when the duties that are done now by the Assistant Tahsildars were looked after more efficiently and to the better satisfaction of the poor ryots by a less costly establishment. I am at a loss to know why the Government would not be convinced of the uselessness of this costly scheme. I beg to place before this House a few points which have come to my notice, where not the least regard was paid to Regulation X of 1094 (*i. e.* the Survey and Boundaries Regulation). I have been interpellating Government regarding certain notices that have to be issued to parties according to the Regulation, but the Government have not been pleased to supply me with the necessary information which would have been very useful for our present discussion. Even during this session I renewed my questions but no answers have been received as yet. I think it will not be out of place if I place before this House a bit of my own experience as a land-holder. Very recently the Tahsildar of Trivandrum served me with a demand notice for the recovery of a sum of Rs. 8 and odd on account of survey and demarcation charges on my property. It was after the receipt of this notice that I knew that my property was surveyed and demarcated and that I was made a defaulter. Before sending out a demand notice they ought to have served me with the several notices according to the Regulation. This they have not done. Now, I fear that the next step of the Tahsildar will be to put the Revenue Recovery Regulation into operation and attach my property. I have brought these facts to the notice of the Revenue Commissioner and I do not know what action was taken on them. When I, who am living in the heart of the town and who am known to most of the *pakuthi* people, am dealt with thus, the fate of the poor people living in the villages can be more or less conceived. Sir, I am of opinion that the present system of land records maintenance is very defective and I request the Government to bestow their immediate attention and see that things are set right.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : The subject of Assistant Tahsildar is a well-worn subject so far as this House is concerned. It has been discussed thread-bare in the House and a number of reasons have been advanced for his immediate abolition. He is all the same surviving and possessing a sort of charmed life in spite of the fact that he happened to be continuously under fire from this side of the House and promises to co-exist probably with the

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

Revenue Department of the State. I am not proposing to go over the old grounds in order to point out the fact that the evolution of the Tahsildar of old attended by the elimination of the outlying activities of that old functionary and marked by the specialisation of his legitimate duties has not, so far as we are concerned, been of any use in the matter of his services being confined to revenue work. He has to be assisted by the Assistant Tahsildar, who appears to have been introduced as a temporary measure, but threatens to continue for ever. But the one thing that I am now laying emphasis upon is the many illegalities that this functionary called the Assistant Tahsildar is empowered to carry on. First of all, I may draw the attention of the House to Section 14 of the Survey and Boundaries Regulation. Under that Section, so far as the land records maintenance work goes, the function of the Assistant Tahsildar is simply to find out the existence and the limits of *porambokes* and to refix them wheresoever the boundary stones are absent. But as my friend Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai pointed out a rule quite *ultra vires* of the Regulation has been enacted under the Regulation, i. e., Rule No. 35, empowering the Assistant Tahsildar to disregard the boundary and the limits of *porambokes* as originally settled under the prior survey and settlement and allowing him to take advantage of any limit that he fancies as the limit of any particular *poramboke*. That particular rule has been in operation for nearly two or three years, and now the refreshing news is conveyed to the House by our esteemed friend Mr. Robinson that the Government have been good enough to abrogate that rule. But who is answerable for the amount of mischief that has already been done? Are the Government prepared to compensate the people who have suffered in this respect? I think Mr. Robinson will be the last person to agree to that proposal. Then, Mr. Robinson asks: "Don't you feel tickled when I say there is the prospect of gain that the Assistant Tahsildar would bring in." Sir, this House would be the last body, so far as this section of the House is concerned, to promote illegalities in any shape. At this rate any departmental head serving the Travancore Government may send out a gang of people who for the sake of revenue may do various things and the House will have to keep quiet because there is the prospect of gain. (Laughter.) That ought not to be the standpoint from which the question has to be viewed. The question is one of welfare of the citizens and the people in general, and that in a legal way. So, then, here is a patent case that the rules enacted by Government have been *ultra vires* of the parent Regulation. Illegalities have been committed and the outcry so far as the Popular Assembly and this House are concerned has been distinctly audible that an amount of innocent suffering is being caused by the Assistant Tahsildar who, we submit, should soon cease to function. But in spite of the criticism of the House for the last three years, he promises to be with us. I beg to repeat what we have been hammering on the attention of the Government the subject of Assistant Tahsildars.

Fortunately for the Government, at the very first blush of the question, some of the non-official members got into some sort of delusion with respect to some possible benefits that might arise from the existence of the Assistant Tahsildar. Hence, they could not see eye to eye with the rest of us, and, now, I am glad to hear that all sections are practically agreed upon the inutility of the Assistant Tahsildar and the illegality in allowing him to continue. Therefore, I would request all the members on this side of the House to take into consideration the fact that this Council is in the last year of its existence and discussing the last budget placed before it and not to lose sight of the fact that we owe an account of our doings here to the public at large. [Mr. A. Hoogewerf: "Hear, hear".] As to this Assistant Tahsildar who is at the people's throat when he professes to measure their fields and their compounds, he is really measuring the patience and capacity of the people to stand the pressure brought to bear on the people. In general, he seems to be a very unwelcome visitor so far as the people in the outlying tracts of Travancore are concerned. So, I would request the non-official section of this House to stand shoulder to shoulder in the matter of voting out this Assistant Tahsildar (*loud laughter*) and take it as the most precious work that they can do in the field of the non-official duty that they ever set before themselves to discharge in this House.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnathur*): Sir, I fully associate with what has been said by my friends on this side of the House regarding this motion. Mr. Kumara Pillai brought to the notice of the Council some particular cases and also mentioned the sort of sufferings felt and the losses sustained by the people of his taluk. Sir, I must also say that the sufferings felt by and the losses caused to the people of my taluk and the people of adjacent taluks are equally so and it is put in the budget that the continuance of these Assistant Tahsildars is only *temporary*. I must submit, Sir, that the evils caused to and the losses sustained by the people on account of the work of these Assistant Tahsildars are not temporary but permanent. Besides the high rate of *taravila* realised, the matter of punishment in connection with *poramboke* cases, and the taxes levied upon such *porambokes* are enormously high. Apart from the fact that the Government have been realising gain in the matter of *taravila* and taxes in ordinary cases, as I referred to in my speech in the course of the general discussion of the budget, Government have issued a Notification to extend what are called town lands by making 17 municipal stations also added to it. The question of registry of lands in towns is quite different from the registry of lands in *poramboke* cases in the other areas. The minimum tax to be fixed according to the rules on these town lands by the Assistant Tahsildars when they take up *poramboke* cases is Rs. 7 ch. 4 per acre and the maximum tax, as I put it the other day, is Rs. 574 ch. 12 per acre. So, this state of affairs along with the continuance of this set of Assistant Tahsildars must necessarily cause real hardship to the

[Mr S. C. H. Robinson.]

people, and it is on account of that, as was repeatedly said by my friends, that we raise our protest against the continuance of this set of officers.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir I rise to oppose the motion for reducing the grant.

This is a question that was fully discussed in this House on previous occasions and it was clearly brought to the notice of the House that the expenditure was a necessary item in the land revenue budget. The scheme now working was introduced after mature consideration, and though some pessimism was prevailing at the outset as to the outturn expected, it has been proved beyond doubt that it is now working satisfactorily.

The expenditure incurred so far is Rs. 2,99,285. I would ask the House whether it is expedient to say, 'halt!' at this stage when the work is in full swing and when so much expenditure has been incurred. Every one of us has a duty to discharge towards the Government, and the public and I would request you to consider whether we will be considered as discharging this duty if we allow the work to stop and get into chaos, when the scheme has passed the experimental stage, when the Assistant Tahsildars, who were new to their work at the outset, have gained experience by their continuous work in the field for these four years, and when responsible officers of Government who have thorough experience in land revenue matters have given their verdict that the staff now in the field is indispensable for the conduct of land records maintenance work and for clearing off the accumulated arrears.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Will Mr. Robinson say what further time it will take the Assistant Tahsildars to finish the work allotted to them?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That I cannot say exactly.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May we have some sort of idea as to the possible duration?

PRESIDENT: Can you not give a rough idea, Mr. Robinson?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I think last year I said three years. One year has passed and there are two years more.

In the light of the past discussions in this House and in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, Government have gone minutely into the working of the Land Records Department and have removed all defects noticed so far. To cite instances, there are the instructions of Government in the matter of classifying encroachments as objectionable and unobjectionable, and impressing upon the subordinate officers the necessity of evicting encroachments only in objectionable *poramboles*. These instructions disclose clearly the intention of Government to mitigate the

hardship in the working of the scheme. Again, when it appeared to Government that Rule 35 of the Land Records Rules, *viz.*, that *poramboke* should be surveyed and demarcated according to their position gave rise to some misunderstanding in the public mind that the survey and demarcation would be done without regard to the extent or position of adjoining *patta* lands, they have issued clear instructions that the rule should be interpreted correctly and that no portion of a registered holding should be treated as *poramboke*. Government have even gone to the extent of authorising the Tahsildars, who dispose of *poramboke* cases to remeasure the lands whenever necessary with due reference to settlement and pre-settlement records, when contentions are raised by the parties that any portion of the area surveyed as *poramboke* falls within their registered lands.

PRESIDENT: Do you mean pre-settlement records?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The settlement and pre-settlement records.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know whether there have been irregularities on the part of the Assistant Tahsildars as regards remeasuring?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I hope these irregularities will disappear. But it is not that they want character. There have been irregularities in every department.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): He said that they had been asked to remeasure the lands already measured.

PRESIDENT: He wants to know whether there have been cases of remeasuring of lands that have been already measured.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Remeasuring has to be done when there is a necessity.

PRESIDENT: I know of cases in which it has been done.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Is a remeasuring ordered on account of the change in the rules?

PRESIDENT: It depends upon the number of such cases.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Instructions have been issued to the Land Records Superintendent about a month and ten days ago.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Have the rules been published in the *Government Gazette*?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Only the attention of the Superintendent has been drawn to them. They will be published after getting the sanction of the Government.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): How will the people know about these rules if they are not published?

PRESIDENT: They will be published.

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether there are cases in which the Government have ordered remeasurement of land in regard to which measurement had been made according to existing rules? In respect of such sketches prepared, have the Government issued demand notices for recovering charges?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The notice I am talking about is as regards the widening of *poramboles* which is due to the neglect or interest of adjoining land-owners in not putting boundary fences or walls, strictly according to the pre-settlement, the *poramboles* as to the existing limits should not be surveyed unless the party is informed of it and that the encroachment will be treated as *poramboles*.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether, in surveying these *poramboles*, the Assistant Tahsildars measure also the adjoining lands held by private people,--whether, when they survey these *poramboles* they also survey the adjoining registered holdings so as to find out the exact limits between the *poramboles* and the registered holdings?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): They will have to see to the several survey stones for checking. The adjoining lands may belong to private persons or they may be *poramboles*. They must check the position of the stones correctly.

I am not arguing that the system has become perfect and there will be no room for further complaints. I am only asserting that the right course is not to end the scheme but to mend it in the light of further experience gained. I find that it is felt by all concerned that in the interests of Government and the tax-paying land-holders the public roads and lanes should be conserved to the full extent necessary and that public canals and other water courses should be kept intact without encroachments. Since the date of the settlement, there has been no proper survey of these areas and the result is that both the Government and the ryots are alike ignorant as to where their boundaries meet. It will certainly not be advisable to postpone the work indefinitely till the question of the resurvey of the State is settled, as every year's delay will result in loss either to Government or to the ryots. In the case of unobjectionable *poramboles*, such as reclamations from *kayals* or rivers that could be assigned without causing obstruction to navigation, it is necessary that they should be assigned as early as possible so that the ryots may be assured of their holding and Government of their revenue. In the case of objectionable encroachment, it is equally essential that the squatters should be made aware of their trespass as early as convenient, so that they may stop spending money in a concern that will never prove to be a paying one. I assure the House that, without a proper staff, it will not be possible to do any adequate work under land records maintenance. The villages are many

of them unwieldy and no re-arrangement is possible till the next settlement. It is therefore no use asking the *proverthikar* under the existing conditions to go about the *pakuthi* attending to the L. R. M. work in the way it is now done by the Land Records Department. It is equally impossible for the Tahsildar amidst his multifarious duties to do the executive work of test-inspection or see to the correction of plotted sketches prepared by the special accountants. In addition to his office and treasury work, the Tahsildar has to be out in camp for at least 40 days a quarter. He has to spend many days more in camp if the executive side of his work has to be done satisfactorily. For example, he has to spend at least three or four days in a *pakuthi* to check the several registers and accounts maintained in each village. In a taluk where there are 7 villages, the Tahsildar has to be in the village office for at least 21 days for the said item of work. He has to inspect the several markets in the taluk and see if the conditions prescribed in the Market Rules are adhered to by the contractors and licensees. He has to inspect all the sites involved in the grant of agricultural loans and see if the money advanced is duly spent. He has to inspect all lands involved in cases where the *poramboke*s are applied for parties and see if the lands can be made available for assignment or not. Then again he has to do much inspection work in *pudural* and encroachment cases. He has necessarily to be in charge of the Treasury for at least 30 days in a quarter. I do not consider that it will be practicable for the Tahsildar to devote adequate attention to the L. R. M. work as the Assistant Tahsildar is now doing. Of course we may try if the Tahsildar cannot be made to do it. But, I assure you, Sir, that the trial will end in failure as it is no use bringing matters to such a crisis. If the functions of the Police are indispensable in criminal law, I should consider that a competent staff is equally so under the Revenue Regulations and rules for conserving the public roads and canals which are now no man's property and that public property should be considered as sacred as public safety. It is a regular resurvey of *poramboke* lands that is now going on. All mistakes brought to light are being rectified and in all cases in which the parties raise contentions against the survey, regular enquiries are being conducted and the rectification of settlement mistakes, if any, noticed, is being allowed by the Government. Though about three hundred to four hundred notices of suit are received by Government every year it is only very few that are dissatisfied with the decisions of revenue officers and seek the help of the court.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): In the case of how many such decisions have notifications been published in the *Government Gazette*?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I am not sure.

This year the cases decided against Government are only about 40 and the awards made payable by the Government amount only to Rs. 4,300. What I would reiterate is that, if the House considers that L. R. M. work is indispensable in the interest of Government and the land owners,

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

the only proper course I would recommend is to allow the present scheme to continue at least till all the existing *poramboke* are surveyed.

Out of a total of 2,42,607 *poramboke* numbers only 84,340 have been resurveyed so far. It is therefore necessary that the L. R. M. staff and the Assistant Tahsildars should continue till the remaining numbers are all surveyed and demarcated. Whatever might have been the anticipations at the outset as to the period required for closing the arrears of work, I can only say that the period fixed was only approximately calculated on the basis of a very rough standard. The volume of the work was not fully gauged as it naturally could not be, and it has been found by actual experience on the ground that a resurvey of big *kayal* and river *poramboke*s and of canal and other *poramboke*s, in the hilly taluks is beset with difficulties and that in a country like Travancore where such *poramboke*s are many and where the severity of the monsoons is beyond human control, you cannot condemn the Land Records Department if the standard falls short of expectation.

As the *puduvai* survey operations—

PRESIDENT: That is not in question now.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I think I have sufficiently explained the matter.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): After the excellent speech of my friend Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai and the finishing touch given to it by Mr. Kumara Pillai and the stirring appeal made by the members on this side of the House like that by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, I do not think there is very much for any other member to say on this matter. They have proved to the hilt that the Assistant Tahsildar is absolutely unnecessary. The Tahsildar is responsible for the correct maintenance of the land records, and he alone should be put to this work. I had a conversation with a few Tahsildars, and they told me that they were having rather an easy time of it. Mr. Robinson was doing this side of the House and the country a service in letting the cat out of the bag when he said that alterations were being made in the method of measurement of the lands and so on. That has strengthened our hands very much; and from what Messrs. P. K. Narayana Pillai and G. Paramesvaran Pillai have said, I think that matters have been going on in the wrong way and that everything that has been done is more or less *ultra vires*. Mr. Robinson's Department wants to take a lot of credit to itself for having brought in a big revenue of two or three lakhs of rupees. That is his main argument.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That is not the main argument. My argument was that it is no good throwing up the staff, having kept them so far; and having proceeded with a portion of the work.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I could not hear what he said, (*Laughter*). I see in the reports that are published and speeches

made by the members that much credit is taken for the two or three lakhs of rupees that have been brought into the Government exchequer by the introduction of the Assistant Tahsildars. I ask the question: "Would not the same amount have come in if the Tahsildar himself was doing this work?" That is the point. The other is a sort of camouflage and putting things in the wrong way. With these few remarks I strongly support Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai's motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I have not very much to say by way of reply, because I have not been enlightened by the speech of the Land Revenue Commissioner in regard to the point about which there could have been some doubt. The main reason still urged by him is one of gain to Government. I hope it has been satisfactorily answered by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai and also by the figures shown by Mr. Kumara Pillai. As a matter of fact, very much more money will certainly come into the coffers of Government if they will only proceed at the present rate, for it is not likely that, in respect of small amounts, the people would take the trouble of either going to the appellate authority or filing civil suits. Mostly, the amounts sought to be recovered as fines are Rs. 3, Rs. 5 and Rs. 7, and a very large amount is certainly likely to be realised on account of such charges. The Land Revenue Commissioner was not in a position to tell us whether the formalities prescribed under the law have been satisfied before steps were taken by the land records authorities for the realisation of these amounts.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I did not say that the formalities had not been carried out. It is for the other side to show that they have not been carried out.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Of course, the facilities that are in the possession of Government to satisfy us, I hope Mr. Robinson will realise, are not certainly with us. As a matter of fact we assert that there have been irregularities and that the formalities prescribed under the law have not been complied with. It is up to Government to satisfy the non-official members by quoting the notifications published under the law or by satisfying us by other records that such steps as are required under the law have been taken by the Government or their officers. So far as we are aware there is only one notification and that is under Section 5 of the Survey and Boundaries Regulation. We have not been able to find out any other notification as prescribed under Sections 6, 11 and 16, so much so that it is not possible for us to say from the authorised version published in the *Gazette* whether any of these formalities prescribed under the above Sections have been complied with. On the other hand, if there are any other records for satisfying us we would certainly welcome such information from the Revenue Commissioner in the course of his reply. It has been said that orders have been issued for the remeasurement of such of the *porambores* as have already been

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

measured on the basis of Rule 35 objected to from this side of the House. It is not known what amount has been realised on account of the erroneous measurement already made and whether these amounts are contemplated to be refunded, whether after all people have not been put to considerable hardship on account of such illegal procedure.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What about convictions?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Also on account of convictions that might have ensued on account of such illegal steps taken by Government and the fines and penalties imposed upon the people consequent upon such irregular procedure. The very important question is whether, before surveying these *porambores*, they had surveyed and fixed the boundaries or ascertained the boundaries of the adjoining registered holdings. The Land Revenue Commissioner was not in a position to tell us whether the Assistant Tahsildars had done that. The Assistant Tahsildars or the land records authorities before altering the limits, have necessarily to alter the map as well. Have they done that? And are they competent to do that? So far as the area of the adjacent registered holdings is concerned they cannot alter the area of the registered holdings under the existing law. We object to the special agency appointed for the purpose of land records maintenance and not to the work of the land records maintenance as such. We have absolutely no complaint about the system of preserving lands intact and of maintaining land records. We would certainly object to the encroachment upon public lands and we would certainly welcome any measure to detect encroachments upon *porambores* or common grounds. As I submitted already, here the Assistant Tahsildars are not only detecting encroachments upon public lands, but they have been encroaching upon private lands which cannot be said to be one of their duties or the object of the system which will inure to the benefit of the people at large. Of course, in regard to the agency, the Revenue Commissioner says that the Tahsildar continues to be an officer with multifarious duties. I do not know whether a time will arrive when he will cease to be an officer of multifarious duties in order that he might give his personal attention to what may be regarded as his most legitimate duty, viz., that of the maintenance of land records. I still maintain that the Tahsildar ought to be the real local responsible officer in respect of land records maintenance work. There is no justification, merely on account of the fact that he is also asked to do business in connection with the Agricultural Loans Regulation or any other matter, why he should be asked to ignore or disregard the duties attached to him as land revenue officer. I may also state that, now, with very few exceptions, almost all the Tahsildars have got the same kind of survey training as that of the Assistant Tahsildars. I am glad to say that latterly the Government have been enforcing the Tahsildars being in

camp in their *pakuthies* and staying there for a sufficient number of days to go about inspecting not only the registers but also *pokkuvaravu* work and doing such other duties as are necessary, when the Tahsildars are in camp. I do not find any reason why the Tahsildars should not be empowered to exercise supervision over the work of the accountants, regarding survey of *porambokes*. It is the accountant that does this work primarily. The Assistant Tahsildar is expected only to check about twenty per cent. of the work done by these accountants. The Land Record Maintenance Superintendent checks only a very small percentage of the work done by the Assistant Tahsildars. This is the control and supervision in regard to the maintenance of land records. On the other hand, the Tahsildar, the local officer, who is expected to go about and to inspect the *pakuthies*,—and leisurely too—and who has got ample opportunities for the purpose should necessarily have ample facility to see to the efficient and proper working of the Land Records Maintenance Rules. I therefore think that the argument that the Tahsildar is an officer of multifarious duties and will ever continue to be so, should certainly have no weight with the Land Revenue Commissioner in supporting the present temporary scheme. I therefore strongly urge that here is a matter wherein people are really affected prejudicially; and I assert it is not a scheme which, as claimed by the Government, is in the interests of the people. Here is a matter where I should certainly expect that those who represent the people have a duty to perform by voting down the grant demanded.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I do not think I have very much to say. From past experience, it has been found not possible to have the work done with normal hands. It was as a result of the work being attended to in former times by the normal staff that the arrears accrued. I think it is in the interests of every land-owner to know the extent of his land. It is also in the interests of the Government as well as the land-holder that all these *porambokes* and encroachments should be surveyed as soon as possible. I have shown that it was not possible to do that work with the normal staff. We have been working with the new staff and they have now got experience of the work, and if we have to stop it now, we will have wasted a good deal of public money. I therefore oppose the motion.

PRESIDENT: I propose to make a few remarks, in order to enable the House to see what the real attitude of the Government in regard to this matter is. The question is whether this temporary staff is to be ended or is to be mended. I may inform the non-official side of the House that the real object with which the Government have been pressing the retention of this temporary staff is not the money that it brings in. I see that the non-official side of the House fully recognises the importance of keeping the *porambokes* intact in the interests of the community. Indeed, complaints have been received that the *porambokes* which act as drainage channels or irrigation channels or as important roads or other means of communication from one place to another have been allowed to be encroached upon to the great prejudice

[President.]

of the neighbouring people. This is the object with which the work was started. Of course the non-official side of the House says: "Why cannot the Tahsildars do this work, why cannot the ordinary revenue establishment do this?" The ordinary revenue establishment, I would say, is inadequate at any time and under any circumstances to tackle this work fully and efficiently. It is not so in this country only. It is recognised elsewhere also that the ordinary revenue establishment, although its duty is to keep up the land records in conformity with the conditions existing on the ground, cannot achieve this object unaided, and from time to time, here as well as elsewhere,—here, I can say from previous literature, and elsewhere as I know it myself,—special help has had to be given to the land revenue establishment to achieve the object referred to. The non-official side of the House knows that there were heavy arrears in regard to the maintenance work and that things were in a state of perfect chaos, and it was after a good deal of consideration that this organisation was started. A good deal of work has been done and some more work remains to be done. It is not pretended that there has been no room for complaint. When there is a large organisation like this working, there must inevitably be some amount of irregularity and it is quite legitimate for the public to complain in regard to such irregularity, and it is the duty of Government and their officers to remedy the irregularity. As for defects in the rules themselves, after the work had progressed for three years, one defect was brought to the notice of Government, and when that was brought to the notice of Government, it was promptly remedied. No human rules are perfect. The rule which is now objected to probably got in through some inadvertence, and when the doubtful validity of that rule was brought to the notice of Government, that rule was altered. If there is any other defect in the rules, Government would be willing to remove the defect and make them better and more satisfactory. Mr. Kumara Pillai was instancing certain cases in his own taluk. He was referring to small extents of land along paths or water courses which have been booked as encroachments. In the case of water courses and communications, the nature of the encroachments on them will only be very small. If I remember rightly, there is a rule which says that insignificant encroachments should be left untouched. I believe that there is such a rule, and if that rule had been used with discretion, such cases need not have been brought to book. But you must also remember that it is unsafe to give too much of discretion to the subordinate officers. When cases which require the use of discretion are brought to the notice of people who realise their responsibility, that discretion will be better used by them than by the subordinate officers. Therefore a defect in the rule or in the working of it cannot be a complete answer to the argument regarding the necessity of the establishment. The Government are not anxious that this establishment should continue. If this establishment is abolished and if this work is to stop, it means so much work less for the Government. But is that real economy or sound policy? We have gone a good deal along the path of rectifying the

mistake in survey and bringing up the land records. When pre-settlement records are quoted by the parties affected, they are consulted, and if the cases which are taken as encroachments are found to be parts of holdings, then they are declared to be real holdings, and they are excluded from the operation of the encroachment rules. This is a process in which each case has got to be disposed of on its merits. I grant that a certain amount, perhaps a large amount, of hardship is, or may be, caused to the people, but that hardship can be minimised by a stricter supervision and by a more intensive way of examining things than by abolishing the whole staff. What will happen by abolishing the staff is that the work which has been done so far will come to a standstill, and we will drift again into chaos. I request the House to consider fully the implications of the step that they are going to take, and if they say that the land records staff should go, let it go. But what will be the consequences or results of such a step should be considered carefully by the House before the House vote upon this matter. I shall now put the motion to the vote.

The motion was put to the vote, 20 voting *for* and 20 *against*.

PRESIDENT: I must vote against this motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result:—

AYES—20.

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| 1. Mr. T. M. Chidambaranu Pillai. | 11. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai. |
| 2. „ A. Govinda Menon. | 12. „ J. John Nidiry. |
| 3. „ A. Hoogewerf. | 13. „ M. N. Pillai. |
| 4. „ N. Kumaran. | 14. „ Joseph Panjikaran. |
| 5. „ T. Kumara Pillai. | 15. „ K. Paramesvaran Pillai.
(Tiruvalla.) |
| 6. „ Tariatu Kunjitomman. | 16. „ G. Paramesvaran Pillai. |
| 7. „ V. Kunjukrishna Pillai. | 17. „ L. R. Raja Raja Varma. |
| 8. The Rev. Fr. Kriakose Vettik-
kapalli. | 18. „ N. Ramakrishna Pillai. |
| 9. Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai. | 19. „ C. Sankara Menon. |
| 10. „ M. R. Madhava Variar. | 20. „ K. Dominic Tomman. |

NOES—22.

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| 1. Mr. I. C. Chacko. | 13. Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.
(<i>Director of Agriculture</i> .) |
| 2. „ Paul. V. Daniel. | 14. „ P. Paramesvaran. |
| 3. „ R. Dhanukoti Pillai. | 15. „ M. Raja Raja Varma. |
| 4. „ K. George. | 16. „ C. Ramankunju. |
| 5. „ K. Govindia Pillai. | 17. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami
Aiyangar. |
| 6. „ M. K. Khadir Pillai. | 18. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson. |
| 7. „ R. Krishna Pillai. | 19. „ J. Stephenson. |
| 8. „ R. K. Krishna Pillai. | 20. „ V. Subba Aiyar. |
| 9. „ T. Lakshmana Pillai. | 21. „ S. Subrahmanya
Karayalar. |
| 10. „ John Mackie. | 22. „ Trivikramar Vasudevar. |
| 11. „ K. V. Natesa Aiyar. | |
| 12. „ S. Paramesvara Aiyar. | |

The motion was declared lost.

[President.]

Motions 32 to 42.

The following motions, which were identical, were withdrawn:—

MR. C. SANKARA MENON :

32. To omit the allotment of Rs. 27,751 for Assistant Tahsildars and peons.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI :

33. To omit the allotment of Rs. 27,751 for Assistant Tahsildars and peons.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

34. To omit the allotment of Rs. 27,751 for Assistant Tahsildars and peons.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

35. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,550 for travelling allowances by Rs. 1,050.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR :

36. To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,216 for temporary accountants, etc., for the preparation of duplicates of field measurement sketches.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI :

37. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,41,500 for Land Records Establishment.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR :

38. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,41,500 for Land Records Establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI :

39. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,41,500 for Land Records Establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

40. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,41,500 for Land Records Establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI :

41. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,41,500 for Land Records Establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

42. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,41,500 for Land Records Establishment by Rs. 800.

Motion 43.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanam-titta*): I beg to move the following:—

43. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,464 for the temporary Survey School, Kottayam.

I move this just to know why a temporary school is maintained at Kottayam.

PRESIDENT: I may tell you that it is for training those who are to be recruited as accountants and *proverthicars*. People who apply for the posts of *proverthicars* and accountants must pass a survey test. The school pays its own way. It is not a loss to Government. But it is only a source of gain.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanam-titta*): There are many persons who have passed that test. Then what is the use of continuing that school?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): This school was started tentatively for a year with effect from 1-1-93. In view of the proved necessity for the school it is being continued from year to year. This is an institution which has been found to be more than self-supporting. For the first eight months of the current year the receipts are Rs. 960 and the expenditure Rs. 958. As this is the only school for the use of the candidates in North Travancore and as there is still large demand for the school, it is proposed to continue the same during 1100 also. There are very many applications for training in the school. It is the only school in North Travancore. If you do not have the school there, the people of North Travancore will have to come here all the way. I therefore request that the grant be allowed.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanam-titta*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 44.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Sir, I move the following:—

44. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for purchase and repair of survey instruments by Rs. 1,000.

I have ventured to make this motion because in the previous year the amount allotted was only Rs. 1,000. And it also appears that in 1098 the allotment was not much. I am unable to see why the allotment of Rs. 2,000 has been made in this particular year. I hope that it will be possible to make a reduction of Rs. 1,000 in the allotment made.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): There are ten theodolite instruments which are out of order and they have to be repaired. The cost of repair will come to about Rs. 200 for an instrument. The instruments are very delicate and costly. I asked for Rs. 2,500 for the purchase of new instruments. But the Government have reduced it to Rs. 2,000. Without good instruments correct measurements could not be taken. This House is fully aware that slight mistakes in the angle would land the people in difficulties. The amount asked for now is highly necessary and is very much less than what I asked for originally. I would ask therefore the gentleman to kindly withdraw the motion.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): In the light of the explanation given, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

[President.]

Motions 45 and 46.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. P. K. NARAYANAN PILLAI :

45. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 88,850 for Revenue Survey by Rs. 100.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI :

46. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 8.52 lakhs under Demand I by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT : I now put this demand to the vote of the House, i. e., Demand I—Land Revenue—Rs. 8.82 lakhs *minus* Rs. 4,800.

I take it that the House sanctions the demand.

The grant was made.

The House then adjourned at 5-3 P. M. to meet next morning.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,

Secretary to the Legislative Council.